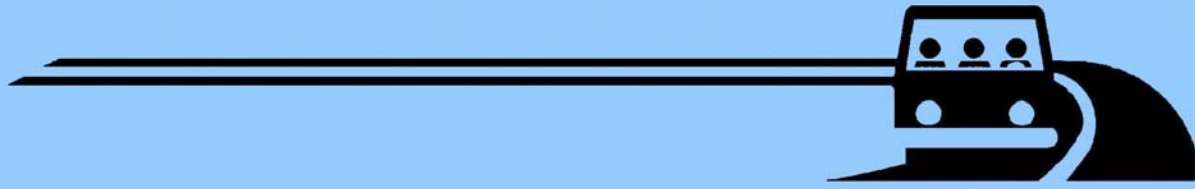


The Harrisburg Area Rideshare Program 2004 Annual Report



CALL 717-234-RIDE

OVERVIEW

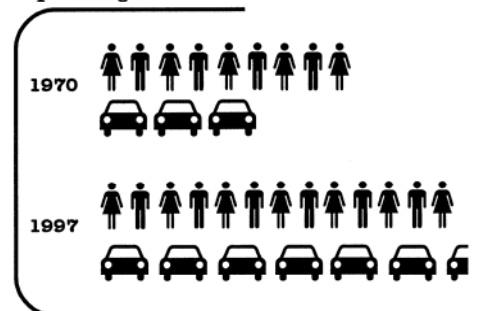
The Harrisburg Area Rideshare Program serves commuters in Central Pennsylvania, providing users with the information to connect with others in their area who also commute to the Harrisburg area for work. The rideshare program has connected commuters from Adams, Berks, Carbon, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Mifflin, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Schuylkill, Snyder, Union, and York counties, to share their ride into Harrisburg.

In studies of the I-81 and I-83 corridors through the Harrisburg Region, it was found that by 2030 both corridors will reach gridlock conditions at both the AM and PM peak drive times throughout the entire region. Even if both interstates are widened to 6 lanes each through the entire region, certain sections will still experience gridlock during peak hours. High traffic volumes and gridlock not only reduce the amount of time we have with our families and work responsibilities, they increase road damage and degrade the air quality around our homes and schools. During the summer months (particularly June, July, and August), the region is susceptible to dangerous, ground level, ozone air pollution. Ridesharing is one of many options available to decrease the number of vehicles using our highways and roadways each day.

RIDESHARE COMMUTER BENEFITS:

- Save money on vehicle insurance
- Fuel savings
- Parking savings
- Prevent wear and tear on your vehicle
- Less maintenance on your vehicle
- Cut down the frustrations associated with traffic congestion and the stress of daily driving

Growth in Population Versus Vehicle Registration Capital Region



Source: TCRPC

The Rideshare Program continues to maintain the goals and objectives it has had throughout its 30 years of existence.

PROGRAM GOALS



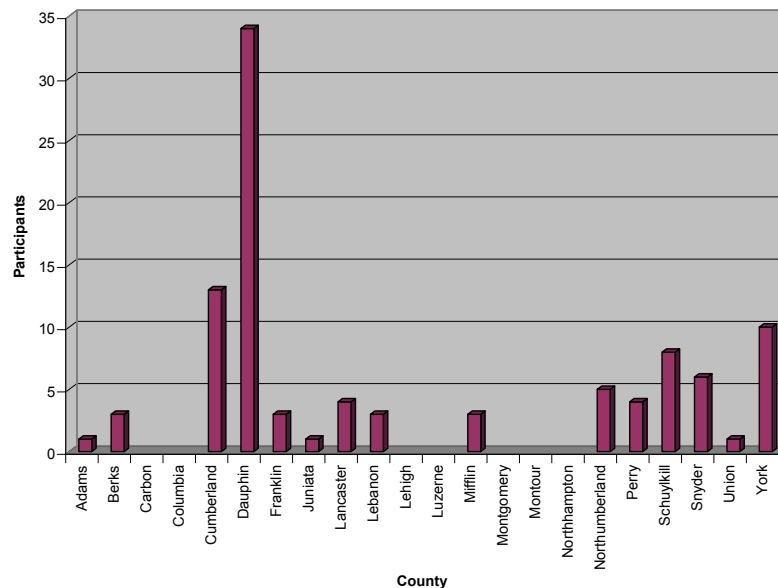
The goals and objectives of a successful rideshare program include:

- Improving regional air quality
- Reducing area wide traffic congestion
- Reducing area wide energy consumption
- Reducing travel demand on our region's roadway networks
- Reducing the amount of Single Occupant Vehicles (SOV) while increasing the amount of High Occupant Vehicles (HOV)
- Matching individuals with shared commuter characteristics
- Achieving match rates of 80% or better

2004 PROGRAM STATISTICS

The Harrisburg Area Rideshare Program continues to provide benefits to commuters who choose to find other individuals traveling to and from the same origin and destination.

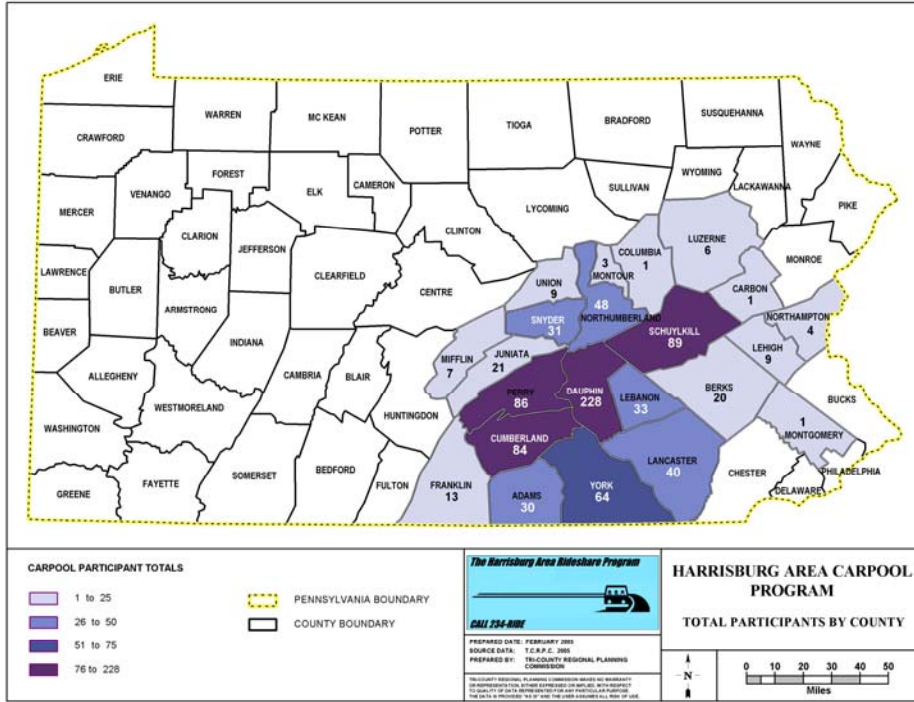
2004 Rideshare Enrollee's by County



2004 Rideshare Program Matchup Results

Month	Monthly Inquiries	Monthly Follow-up			Previous No-Match	Monthly Match %	YTD Match %	Monthly Match	Prior Year Match	% Change
		Calls	Match	No-Match						
January	5	11	4	1	0	80.00%	80.00%	4	16	-75.00%
February	2	8	2	0	1	150.00%	100.00%	3	12	-75.00%
March	4	9	3	1	0	75.00%	90.91%	3	9	-66.67%
April	8	9	5	3	1	75.00%	84.21%	6	5	20.00%
May	8	10	7	1	0	87.50%	85.19%	7	4	75.00%
June	8	9	6	2	0	75.00%	82.86%	6	5	20.00%
July	12	10	11	1	0	91.67%	85.11%	11	9	22.22%
August	11	16	8	3	2	90.91%	86.21%	10	4	150.00%
September	9	9	3	6	0	33.33%	79.10%	3	4	-25.00%
October	13	10	12	1	1	100.00%	82.50%	13	7	85.71%
November	15	13	10	5	1	73.33%	81.05%	11	4	175.00%
December	5	5	2	3	0	40.00%	79.00%	2	4	-50.00%
Yearly Tot.	100	119	73	27	6	79.00%		79	83	-4.82%
<i>Monthly Avg.</i>	8.3	9.9	6.1	2.3	0.5	80.98%		6.6	6.9	

Harrisburg Area Carpool Program Total Participants by County



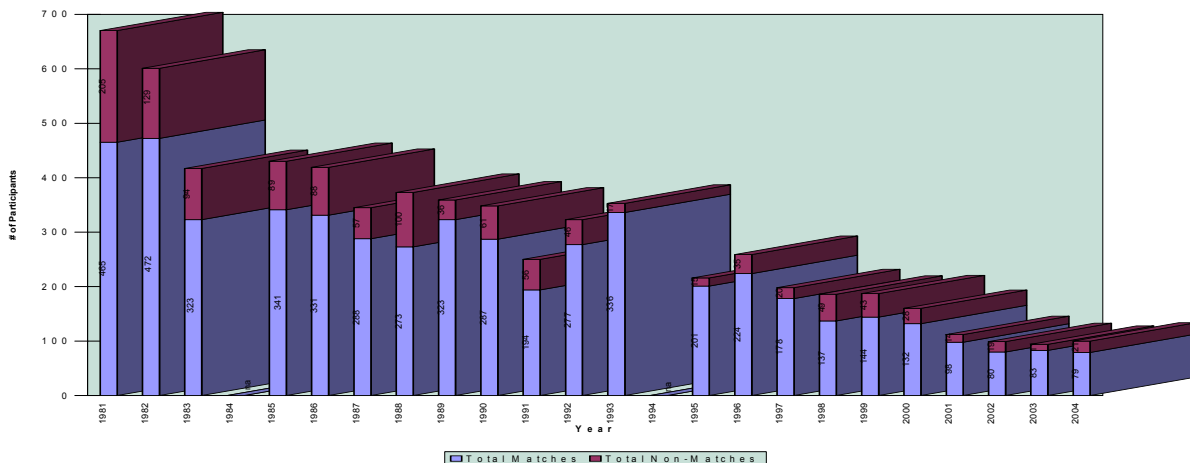
Currently, there are almost 830 participants in the Harrisburg Area Rideshare Program as of the last purge in 2003. While the majority of the riders are from Dauphin and the surrounding counties (see map), riders from as far as Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, Bethlehem, and Allentown are currently enrolled in the program. The goal is to

continue to build upon the existing ridership by enrolling more people into the program each year.

During 2004, staff handled 100 requests for carpool matches. Of these requests, 79 were supplied with information on possible matches within their area, which is a 79% match-up rate for the year, 1 percent short of our annual goal of 80%. Requests to join the Rideshare program were up significantly over 2003, which is a very promising sign. Unfortunately, the number of enrollees the program was unable to match rose significantly also, from 14 in 2003 to 27 in 2004. Many of those unmatched enrollees work second, third, and non-standard shifts and participation in the program on these shifts is much less than those working the first shift, which made it more difficult to match riders. All names are kept in our files, however, so should a match be found, at a later date, enrollees will be notified of new matches.

Over the years there has been a declining trend in participation in the Harrisburg Rideshare program, which mirrors participation rates nationwide. Participation was highest in the early 80's, when there was more than 400 requests yearly to participate in the Rideshare program. During the late 80's participation rates dropped to around 300 inquires a year, down to the 200 levels in the 90's to around 100 inquiries a year in the 00's. Lowered participation in rideshare programs in recent years has been attributed

Total Rideshare Requests & Matches 1981 - 2004



to various social, demographic, and economic changes, improvements, and perceptions.

Trends nationwide indicate that more households have two or more cars, reducing the need for car sharing. Many employers provide ample parking space for those wishing to drive into work on their own. While gas prices have risen significantly lately, the cost still represents only a small portion of most people's income. For those working shifts other than first shift, the number of others wanting to carpool that live in the same area is greatly reduce, thereby reducing the number of options a Rideshare program can offer. Some Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) drivers view carpooling as an obstacle to freedom of travel and ability to take side trips. While some convenience may be lost using a rideshare program, the reality is for every additional person joining a car or vanpool program, another SOV is removed from the amount of traffic congesting the highways and roadways. To put this into perspective, this region, including Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, Lebanon, Lancaster, and York counties has about 700,000 commuters traveling through the area each day. Reducing this number by just 1 percent would be the equivalent of eliminating a 22-mile-long traffic jam.

Making It Regional

2004 marks the last year of the Harrisburg Area Rideshare Program Annual Report. The program is merging into the larger Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania program, which will provide Ridesharing match-up, and other services not only in the Harrisburg area, but also in Lebanon, Lancaster, and York. The URS Corporation will administrate this program. URS is a publicly owned company with local offices in Philadelphia, King of Prussia, and Mechanicsburg. The program is overseen by the Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership (SRTP) which has board members from the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's), Transit Authorities (CAT, COLT, Red Rose, and Rabbit Transit), and the Regions Chambers in each of the Harrisburg, Lebanon, Lancaster, and York areas.

Commuter Services will be focusing its efforts on getting employers throughout the region to encourage their employees to participate in Ridesharing to work. The program will establish an Emergency Ride Home program and hold special events to get more people to sign up for Ridesharing. A toll-free number will be provided for people to call in and register for the Ridesharing program. Once the program is fully operational, the 717-234-RIDE Harrisburg Rideshare number will become part of the system. Information about the program will also be provided at www.pacommuterservices.com.

During 2004, the SRTP kept busy getting the Commuter Services program started. In July of 2004, SRTP incorporated as a non-profit organization. Once incorporated, SRTP Inc. hired URS to implement the Commuter Services program. At a November media event, board members along with Pennsylvania and Federal Officials announced the formation of the SRTP group to the local media.

Ridesharing directly affects the region and reduces damage to local roadways, the effects of air pollution, and the congestion on heavily traveled corridors throughout the Harrisburg area and within the entire region. Ridesharing also provides benefits for the individual commuter in many ways. A commuter who carpools is able to share parking and gasoline costs, decrease the wear and tear of their vehicle, pay lower insurance costs, and reduce the stress associated with daily driving. The Harrisburg Area Rideshare Program maintains its support for these objectives and through its

participation with the Commuter Services program, well continue to promote and expand Ridesharing opportunities throughout the region..

APPLY TO RIDE TODAY



The Harrisburg Area Rideshare program is still taking applications for anyone interested in Ridesharing. The ridesharing application process is available on-line at <http://www.tcrpc-pa.org/Carpool.asp>. Applicant's can also apply over the telephone at **717-234-RIDE** or write the Harrisburg Area Rideshare Program using the address listed at the bottom of this report. When applying, the following information will be needed:

- Applicant Name, Address, City, Zip, and County
- Employer Name, Address, City, and Zip
- Work and Home Phone numbers
- E-mail address if available
- Starting and Quitting Work Time
- Whether applicant wishes to Drive Only, Ride Only, or Share Driving
- Preferred method of contact (if applying online, applicant will be emailed back)
- Any comments applicant may have

Once this information is provided, the information is processed and a listing of possible matches is either emailed, phone, faxed, or mailed back, based on the applicant's preferences. It will then be the applicant's responsibility to contact the possible matches to arrange transportation to and from work. Once the Commuter Services program is up and running (mid to late April is the goal), all existing members will be transferred to the new program and applications to join the program will be taken by telephone (**866-579-RIDE**) or via their website: www.pacommuterservices.com.

This report is also available on our website, under the carpool program. For additional information on Carpooling and all other forms of public transportation in the Harrisburg Region, check out our Transit Report called CONNECTIONS at <http://www.tcrpc-pa.org/srtp.htm>.

Harrisburg Rideshare Program

Phone: 717-234-RIDE

Website: www.tcrpc-pa.org/Carpool.asp

Email: bdickson@tcrpc-pa.org

Administered By:

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

112 Market Street, 2nd Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17101

Phone: 717-234-2639

Fax: 717-234-4058

Email: Hats@tcrpc-pa.org

TCRPC Website:

Public Transit Information Website:

Commuter Services of South Central PA

Phone: 866-579-RIDE (operational in late spring)

Website: www.pacommuterservices.com

Email: customer_service@pacommuterservices.com

Funded By:

- Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry Counties

- The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

- The US Department of Transportation

<http://www.tcrpc-pa.org>

<http://www.tcrpc-pa.org/srtp.htm>