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Long-distance commuters sought for DART vanpooling program

People who commute long distances to work in major metro employment centers are being sought for the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority's RideShare vanpool program.

RideShare connects commuters who live and work near one another so they can share rides. Vanpoolers save money, use commute times more productively and reduce their carbon footprint. DART provides the van, gas and maintenance in exchange for a monthly fare. Those who join a RideShare vanpool by Oct. 31 will receive a 25 percent discount on the first three months' fare.

Someone with a daily commute of 80 miles round trip would spend \$10,463.04 annually for an average sedan, according to an AAA report. A RideShare vanpool commuter would spend only \$1,104 to \$1,752 annually for the same round trip.

"Commuting to work doesn't have to be stressful or financially straining," RideShare Program Coordinator Jennifer Long said. "People who share rides discover a significant financial savings, plus more time in their day to read, knit, nap or otherwise relax."

To join a vanpool or learn more, contact DART RideShare by phone at 515-288-RIDE (7433), by email at rideshare@ridedart.com or visit www.ridedart.com.

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority is the public transportation provider that serves Polk County. DART operates a family of transportation services that makes getting around the Greater Des Moines area easier and more convenient. For more information about DART services, schedules, route changes, or directions to the nearest DART stop, visit the website at www.ridedart.com or call 515-283-8100. The MyDART Trip Planner BETA is now available at www.ridedart.com.