



## Looking for a solution to high gas prices? SEMCOG says try RideShare

With gas prices now at more than \$3.00 per gallon, SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, reminds Southeast Michigan commuters that sharing a ride to work will help to lower commuting costs.

High gas prices in August caused a near record number of commuters in Southeast Michigan to complete a ridesharing application. More than 345 applications for ridesharing were received at SEMCOG this August. Compare that to 48 received in August 2004, usually a slow month due to summer vacations. Can consumers save money by sharing a ride? Absolutely, says SEMCOG. To find out how much, consumers

are urged to visit SEMCOG's Web site, where a [RideShare Cost Savings Calculator](#) is available to calculate savings.

The calculator asks five simple questions:

1. What is your daily round trip commute distance?
2. How many days per month do you normally work?
3. How many miles per gallon does your vehicle average?
4. How much per gallon do you normally pay for gasoline?
5. How much do you pay for monthly parking?

Once these questions are answered, the calculator calculates the savings. And savings are significant. Sharing a ride with one person (assuming a commute of just 20 miles and gas at \$3.00 per gallon), annual savings amount to more than \$1,500 per year. Sharing a ride with three people increases the savings to almost \$2,300 per year. Commuting with a nine-passenger vanpool further increases savings to nearly \$2,800 per year.

SEMCOG's RideShare program is a free, computerized service that matches car and vanpool partners for the daily work commute. Users will be matched with others who share common neighborhoods, work locations, and hours. While many commuters may choose a more informal ride share, those who register as carpool or vanpool participants in SEMCOG's RideShare program are also eligible for RideShare's Guaranteed Ride Home Program, which offers taxi fare reimbursement should an emergency arise during the workday and there is a need to get home in a hurry.

Why do people ride share? High gas prices may be the answer today, but may not be the only reason. A recent survey of SEMCOG's RideShare database

revealed that nearly 60 percent share the ride to save money. Just over a quarter (27 percent) are motivated by environmental concerns, while stress reduction was the reason for 21 percent. To find out if the RideShare program will work for you, please call 866-510-POOL or complete an application online at [www.semcog.org](http://www.semcog.org).

Employers may want to introduce this free service to their employees. SEMCOG staff will come to your office and explain. Call SEMCOG at 313-961-4266 for more details on this program.

SEMCOG is a regional planning partnership of local governmental units serving 4.9 million people in the seven-county region of Southeast Michigan striving to enhance the region's quality of life. The Village of Dexter is a member of SEMCOG.