



BREVARD County
SPACE COAST AREA TRANSIT

Public Information Release

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***Transit System Offers Free Bus Rides on National Dump the Pump Day
Print a free-ride coupon on RideSCAT.com and ride for free June 17th***

On June 17th, National Dump the Pump Day, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and public transportation systems across the country—including Space Coast Area Transit—will encourage commuters to consider the economic and environmental advantages of ridesharing. With the economic recession still in effect and continued high gas prices, the slogan of this year's National Dump the Pump Day is "Dump the Pump - Save Money - Ride Transit." Participating transit agencies hope to encourage people to try riding public transportation and saving money, instead of driving a car.

Starting today, Space Coast Area Transit's website, RideSCAT.com, will feature a printable coupon on its home page that allows passengers to ride the bus for free on Thursday, June 17th. "These are tough economic times," said Jim Liesenfelt, the Director of Space Coast Area Transit. "People have been looking for ways to cut costs and riding public transportation is a cost saving choice to make. Dump the Pump Day is an opportunity for our residents to see how using transit can make a difference in their wallets," he said.

The latest APTA Transit Savings Report states that a two car household that downsizes to one car can save – on the average – more than \$9,000 a year.¹ Started in June 2006 when gas prices were \$3 per gallon, this national day emphasizes that public transportation is a great travel option that also helps people save money. For bus maps and schedules, contact Space Coast Area Transit at 633-1878 or log on to RideSCAT.com. For vanpool information, call 952-4563.

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¹ Riding Public Transit Saves Individuals \$9,453 Annually,
http://www.publictransportation.org/facts/100504_transit_savings.asp

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FACT SHEET¹

QUICK FACTS

- In 2009, Americans took 10.2 billion trips on public transportation.
- 35 million times each weekday, people board public transportation.
- From 1995 through 2009, public transportation ridership increased by 31%—a growth rate higher than the 15% increase in U.S. population and higher than the 21% growth in the use of the nation's highways over the same period.
- Public transportation is a \$48.4 billion industry that employs more than 380,000 people.
- More than 7,700 organizations provide public transportation in the United States.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION REDUCES GASOLINE CONSUMPTION

- Public transportation's overall effects save the United States 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline annually – more than 3 times the amount of gasoline imported from Kuwait.
- Households near public transit drive an average of 4,400 fewer miles than households with no access to public transit.
- This equates to an individual household reduction of 223 gallons per year.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION REDUCES CARBON FOOTPRINT

- Communities that invest in public transit reduce the nation's carbon emissions by 37 million metric tons annually— equivalent to New York City; Washington, DC; Atlanta; Denver; and Los Angeles combined, stopping using electricity.
- One person switching to public transit can reduce daily carbon emissions by 20 pounds, or more than 4,800 pounds in a year.
- A single commuter switching his or her commute to public transportation can reduce a household's carbon emissions by 10% and up to 30% if he or she eliminates a second car.
- When compared to other household actions that limit CO₂, taking public transportation can be 10 times greater in reducing this harmful greenhouse gas.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROVIDES ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- For every \$1 invested in public transportation, \$4 in economic returns is generated.
- Every \$1 billion invested in public transportation supports and creates 36,000 jobs.
- Every \$10 million in capital investment in public transportation yields \$30 million in increased business sales.
- Every \$10 million in operating investment yields \$32 million in increased business sales.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SAVES MONEY

- The average household spends 18 cents of every dollar on transportation, and 94% of this goes to buying, maintaining, and operating cars, the largest expenditure after housing.
- Public transportation provides an affordable, and for many, necessary, alternative to driving.
- Households that are likely to use public transportation on a given day save over \$8,400 every year

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ENHANCES PERSONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Public transportation provides personal mobility for people from every walk of life.
- Access to public transportation gives people transportation options to get to work, go to school, visit friends, or go to a doctor's office.
- Public transportation provides access to job opportunities for millions of Americans.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SAVES FUEL, REDUCES CONGESTION

- Access to bus and rail lines reduces driving by 4,400 miles per household annually.
- Americans living in areas served by public transportation save 646 million hours in travel time and 398 million gallons of fuel annually in congestion reduction alone.
- Without public transportation, congestion costs would have been an additional \$13.7 billion.

¹Facts on Public Transportation, <http://www.publictransportation.org/facts/>