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CHICAGO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY 300 W. Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jock L. Hardy
Director of Communications
Phone: 312/793-3463
Fax: 312/793-3481

CARPOOL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE DURING ROAD CONSTRUCTION SEASON

CHICAGO - While many commuters consider road construction season a necessary evil, even the most laid-back driver can become frazzled and frayed when faced with gridlock and highways that resemble parking lots. Fortunately, drivers in northeastern Illinois have a cost-effective and stress-reducing alternative: ridesharing.

Staffers in the Rideshare Services Division of the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) use the agency's proprietary real-time ridematching software to help commuters successfully find carpools and vanpools. Potential ridesharers can visit www.sharethedrive.org to enter their unique needs and individual preferences, and request to be linked with convenient and suitable ridematches.

Since the Web-based system was implemented, Rideshare Services has seen registrations for its services increase by more than 400 percent. More than 1,200 new people enrolled in the regional rideshare database; 41 percent of them have been matched with other individuals enrolled in the system. An impressive 23 percent of registrants choose to continue to participate in the ridematching program after their minimum required enrollment period of six months.

CATS and the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) encourage commuters whose route to work encompasses traveling along the South Corridor Area (I-80/90/94/294) to

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choose carpools and vanpools as an alternative to single occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel as that area undergoes major construction work over the next few years. Ridesharing is also a viable strategy for improving air quality in the region and is recommended by Clean Air Counts, a consortium of environmentally-conscious businesses and local governments coordinated by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus.

For more information on Share the Drive and Rideshare Services, contact Jose Rodriguez at 312/793-0419 or jrodriguez@catsmpo.com.

CATS is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for northeastern Illinois, designated by state and local officials to administer the urban transportation planning process for the region. The area serviced by CATS includes Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties, plus a portion of Kendall County.

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