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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RIDESHARE HELPS COMMUTERS CONSERVE FUEL, SAVE MONEY

CHICAGO - The Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) Rideshare Services Division offers commuters in northeastern Illinois a simple, convenient way to conserve fuel while traveling efficiently and comfortably.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have had an immensely devastating impact on our nation's fuel supply. The situation has become so critical that, on Monday, President Bush urged Americans to conserve fuel and minimize non-essential car trips. President Bush explicitly expressed his desire that Americans share rides and use public transportation when at all possible, saying, "We can encourage employees to carpool or use mass transit."

Drivers in northeastern Illinois who are ready to do their part to help conserve our nation's fuel supply during this crucial period of rebuilding can learn more about ridesharing by visiting the Share the Drive Web page at www.sharethedrive.org.

Prospective ridesharers looking for people interested in carpooling with them can utilize the CATS Ridematch Web application - it's a great way to meet your match!

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In addition to being socially responsible and environmentally conscious, ridesharing is also economically advantageous. According to Jose Rodriguez, manager of operations services at CATS, drivers who carpool to work can reap substantial savings. "The American Automobile Association (AAA) has determined that commuters in northeastern Illinois can typically save anywhere from \$1,000 to nearly \$5,000 per year in transportation costs - including fuel, maintenance and vehicle depreciation - by ridesharing at least three times a week," he said.

Commuters can easily and instantaneously forecast just how substantial those savings may be by using the CATS "Driving Alone Cost Calculator" application. It can be accessed at www.catsmpo.com/ride-commuting-costs.htm.

Users need only enter the number of round trip miles they drive to work alone each day to receive an estimate of the annual cost of commuting alone in a mid-sized vehicle, as well as an estimate of how much money they could save if they carpooled with a minimum of one other person at least four days per week. For example, a driver traveling 40 miles round-trip in a mid-size car would save more than \$1,900 per year by carpooling.

The Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 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, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties, plus a portion of Grundy County.

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