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Travel Reduction Program Major Employers Help Ease the Pain at the Pump

Employee participation in travel reduction efforts annually results in the savings of gasoline, pollution, miles driven and money.

Pima Association of Government's Travel Production Program reports that \$36.3 million were saved among employees of 283 major employers in the region in 2005 due to their participation in carpooling, vanpooling or other travel reduction efforts. These travel reduction efforts that occurred last year, also resulted in a savings of 4.5 million gallons of gasoline, 3.9 million pounds of pollution and 89.6 million driving miles, according to a recently completed survey of program participants.

Employers with 100 or more employees are required by local ordinances to participate in PAG's Travel Reduction Program. Other employers participate on a volunteer basis.

Employers involved in the program educate, encourage and provide incentives for their employees to leave their car at home at least one day a week.

"These employers realize that their bottom line is enhanced by offering benefits to their employees to ease the stress and cost of commuting to work." said Rita Hildebrand, manager of PAG's Travel Reduction Program.

Another employer program available to help reduce traffic congestion in the growing region is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM program. One of the best ways for employers to receive this designation from the EPA is to subsidize 100 percent of the cost of an employee's monthly bus pass.

The recently voter-approved Regional Transportation Authority 20-year plan also will

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lead to reduced traffic congestion. Enhanced and expanded bus service will provide employees with alternative choices to driving their vehicles to work and save on gas money as well.

“All these efforts are a win-win situation for employers and employees,” Hildebrand added. For more information about the Travel Reduction Program, please contact Hildebrand at 792-1093 or visit www.pagnet.org.

Highlights of the TRP survey of 2005 results are attached.

Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, air quality and water quality. PAG's staff gather and analyze data, provide accurate information, and coordinate an open and cooperative planning process to promote good decision-making for the region. Please visit www.pagnet.org for more information.