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Local residents save money, time commuting with DART's RideShare program

DES MOINES, Iowa—The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) is seeking local residents interested in ridesharing to work in and around central Iowa.

[DART RideShare](#) provides a sustainable transportation alternative for central Iowa residents, including nearly 700 riders in 18 counties, and is looking to expand.

"My favorite part of RideShare is the cost savings of not having to operate my own vehicle. When I consider the number of miles driven, cost of fuel, insurance and maintenance, there is no comparison to the savings by using RideShare. In the years I have used RideShare, I would have replaced two or three cars," said David Neeley a Winterset, Iowa resident and Nationwide Insurance employee.

The program organizes groups of five to 15 commuters, who live and work near each other, to share the ride in a clean, comfortable DART-owned van. One person volunteers to be the driver of the vanpool and rides for free. Passengers pay a monthly fare (depending on the number of miles traveled and riders) that covers the cost of gas, insurance and maintenance for the van.

"The average RideShare commuter travels 80 miles round trip each day," said DART Marketing and Communications Manager Erin Hockman. "RideShare saves individuals thousands of dollars while helping connect talent in small communities to employment opportunities in central Iowa."

Someone with this daily commute of 80 miles round trip would spend \$9,900.80 annually for an average sedan, according to AAA's 2016 Your Driving Costs Report. A RideShare vanpool commuter would spend only \$1,104 to \$1,752 annually for the same round trip.

RideShare is more than a smart personal finance or environmentally conscious choice; some riders use the time to catch up on sleep or forge friendships with their peers.

"Before I joined a vanpool I was worried about riding with a bunch of people I didn't know. But it worked out great – I like all of them and consider them friends as opposed to riders," said Darcey Bailey, a Lucas, Iowa resident and Principal Financial Group employee.

RideShare began in October 1995 with five vanpools traveling into Polk County. Today it has nearly 100 vanpools in operation, keeping more than 9 million miles off the road and more than 2,500 metric tons of carbon dioxide out of the air in the past year.

To join a vanpool or learn more, contact DART RideShare by phone at 515-288-RIDE (7433) or by email at rideshare@ridedart.com or visit www.ridedart.com.

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) is the public transportation provider in and around Polk County. DART operates a family of transportation services that connects thousands of people every day to jobs, school, medical

appointments, entertainment and more. For more information about DART services, schedules, route changes, or directions to the nearest DART stop, visit the website at ridedart.com or call 515-283-8100.

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