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## **News Release**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Ride Share Club offers fuel perks to carpoolers**

Has the high price of gas hit you a little too hard in the pocket book? The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments has some soothing balm that can take some of that sting away. This summer, ACOG is encouraging carpooling in Central Oklahoma by teaming up with area businesses and entertainment destinations to offer carpoolers some very special benefits, including making that stop at the gas station a little less painful.

With a \$50,000 grant from the Oklahoma Dept. of Commerce, ACOG launched a public education campaign in mid-May to promote carpooling with the Central Oklahoma Ride Share Club. By joining the club and committing to carpooling to work at least one day per week, commuters can qualify for two-for-one and half-price ticket offers from the Oklahoma City Yard Dawgz, the Oklahoma City Blazers, the Oklahoma City Zoo, Frontier City and White Water Bay. In addition, Ride Share Club carpoolers can qualify for two-for-one coffee for their morning commutes, as well as an opportunity to receive \$15 in free gas at the end of the summer from ConocoPhillips.

ACOG promotes carpooling during the summer months in tandem with its ozone awareness and clean air public education campaign. "This is the first year that we've partnered with our Clean Cities program and stakeholders to promote carpooling and to offer special rewards to people who are sharing a ride," said Yvonne Anderson, ACOG's Clean Cities program manager. "ConocoPhillips and the Oklahoma City Zoo are long-time Clean Cities stakeholders."

One of the Clean Cities program goals is to increase national energy security through informed consumer choice on fuel economy. "What better way for consumers to immediately and positively affect the amount of fuel they're putting in their cars and SUVs each week than by carpooling to work?" said Anderson.

"Saving money on gas and on vehicle wear and tear is a big incentive for anyone to carpool, especially now," Anderson said, "but having groups getting involved like ConocoPhillips, Star Fuel Marts, the Yard Dawgz, the Blazers, the Zoo, Frontier City and White Water is just a phenomenal bonus."

Commuters can sign up for the Central Oklahoma Ride Share Club by logging on to ACOG's Clean Cities web site at [www.okcleancities.org](http://www.okcleancities.org) or by picking up an application form at any of 29 participating Conoco and Phillips66 stations in the Central Oklahoma region. Station locations are listed on the web site. The Ride Share Club targets commuters who have formed carpools, but people who would like to carpool and who are looking for others who want to carpool and who live and work in the same vicinity can link to Metro Transit's carpool matching service from ACOG's Clean Cities web site.

Conoco and Phillips66 stations offering two-for-one coffee for Ride Share Club carpoolers stretch across the metro area from Shawnee to Yukon and Mustang, and from Norman to Edmond. Twenty-seven of the 29 stations are owned by Star Fuel Marts, LLC. Two of the stations are owned by Station Management, LLC. To qualify for free coffee, Ride Share Club members present their Coffee Club cards when they purchase 10 or more gallons of gas at participating locations.

"Just think about how many people drive to work alone each day, park their cars at their place of employment, and then the cars just sit there all day," said Anderson. "In lots of places, parking is at a premium. Employees or employers are either paying for parking or there simply aren't enough parking spaces to accommodate all the cars. Carpooling cuts down on the parking expense, cuts down on the parking congestion, cuts down on rush hour congestion, saves gas, reduces the amount of oil we have to import, and reduces the amount of harmful vehicle emissions in the air we breathe. It can fun and it can be done with only minor adjustments to our morning routines."

"It's really pretty easy to get signed up for the Central Oklahoma Ride Share Club, said Anderson." Once carpoolers have submitted a Ride Share Club application to ACOG, applications are screened and membership packets with membership cards, instructions and discount coupons are mailed. The Coffee Club promotion and opportunity to earn \$15 in free gasoline expire September 30. Ride Share Club discount coupons to sports and entertainment venues expire December 31.