

## **III.B.1.a**

**TO:** Mayor Marchione and City Council

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**DATE:** August 19, 2008

**SUBJECT: STAFF REPORT: IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF COMMUTE  
OPTIONS PROGRAMS**

This memo and staff briefing at the City Council's August 19, 2008, meeting are to inform Council members of work underway to implement the City of Redmond's Commute Options program.

### **COMMUTE OPTIONS BACKGROUND**

Redmond's Commute Options Program comprises three key elements: (1) regulatory actions, including the Commute Trip Reduction Law and Transportation Management Programs; (2) demonstration employer commute options programs; and (3) the Redmond Trip Reduction Incentive Program (R-TRIP).

#### Commute Trip Reduction Law and Transportation Management Programs

Redmond employers affected by the Commute Trip Reduction Law (i.e., those employers with 100 or more employees who arrive to work between 6 am and 9 am) continue to make progress in reducing the number of employees driving alone to the worksite. The annual plans and the biennial surveys provide the basis for ongoing performance measurement. The City's Local Commute Trip Reduction Plan and ordinance, updated to reflect the most recent changes to the Washington State Commute Trip Reduction Law, are scheduled to be brought to Council in September 2008. Among these changes are updated 2011 goals that reflect a minimum ten percent reduction in the drive-alone rate, as set forth in state law.

Transportation Management Programs are required as a condition of new commercial development where thirty or more new trips are generated and twenty-five or more employees are anticipated to arrive to work during either the morning or afternoon peak travel periods. Once the building is occupied, annual surveying and reporting provide ongoing program and performance measurement. Within two years of occupancy, the drive-alone rate at the site is not to exceed seventy percent of employees driving alone to the site.

### Demonstration Employer Programs

Redmond employers of all sizes are encouraged to explore new ways of supporting their employees to use alternatives to driving alone to work. Grants have been made available to employers to implement specific programs like the current *Going for Green* grants which encourage employers to use the R-TRIP Commute Management System to implement, administer and track their employees' commute option use. Grants are also available to employers to develop and demonstrate other innovative employer commute trip reduction programs. Grant amounts are based on a combination of employer size, formula, and estimated project cost. These grant opportunities have played an important role in encouraging employers to implement new or enhanced commute option subsidies, incentives, and supporting infrastructure like bicycle racks and lockers.

### Redmond Trip Reduction Incentive Program

R-TRIP is the marketing brand under which one-time incentives are provided to commuters to encourage them to use alternatives to driving alone. New vanpoolers are offered up to \$50/month for up to six months. As a result of these incentives, Redmond has one of the highest vanpool formation and retention rates in King County. New transit users are provided with a one-month bus pass. This has led to additional employers offering new and enhanced transit subsidies.

On May 1, 2008, a new Commute Management System and website, [www.GOrtrip.com](http://www.GOrtrip.com), were launched. Information about the R-TRIP incentives, ridematching, bus schedules, and other resources that support commute options is available at the R-TRIP website. In addition, individuals who either live in Redmond or work in Redmond who create a My R-TRIP account and log fifty carpool, bike, walk, transit or vanpool trips are eligible to receive a \$50 incentive reward. Based on the information logged, an individual can see the cumulative impacts of their commute option use for themselves, their employer and the R-TRIP program as a whole in terms of vehicle trips and gallons of gasoline saved, pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> reduced, and miles logged using a commute alternative. In addition, employers are able to use the same commute management system to administer their commute option subsidy and incentive programs, realizing significant reductions in administration time.

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Adoption of an updated local CTR plan and ordinance in September 2008.
- Expansion of employer use of the R-TRIP Commute Management System in 2009.