

January 2009

# Program for Alternative Transportation and Health (PATH)

## Monthly Drawing Reminder and News Update

### Quick Links



[www.path-nh.org](http://www.path-nh.org)

[Click here to sign up for PATH](#)

[NH Rideshare](#)

[Central NH Regional Planning Commission](#)

### Thanks to Our Sponsors!

These organizations have supported PATH through a combination of time, money, or donated prizes.

**Concord 2020**

**S&W Sports**

**Concord Food Cooperative**

**Pat's Peak**

### Hello PATH members!

If you are a new PATH member, Welcome!

All PATH members are eligible for a drawing for prizes if they **carpoled, bicycled, walked, or rode transit at least 10 times** or about twice a week per month. If you have made at least 10 trips using any of these modes in January, simply reply to this email to be entered into the drawing.

All PATH members are also eligible for the **Emergency Ride Home benefit**. If you or or fellow carpooler gets caught without transportation in the event of an emergency, PATH will reimburse your cost of transportation home. The rules and directions can be found at our website.

## Carpool and Bicycle Commuting Tax Incentives

*Now Bicyclists and hopefully soon Carpoolers will get reimbursed for the cost of their commute, just as transit users in large cities get reimbursed for their transit passes.*



New Hampshire Congressman Paul Hodes has been working in Congress to promote and reward carpooling. Legislation introduced by Congressman Hodes last year would provide a tax credit to businesses that provide reimbursements or other incentives to employees who carpool to work. He also attached an amendment to a transportation bill to provide additional funding for state commuter matching programs, like [NH Rideshare](#). The legislation passed in the House with relatively broad support, but was stalled in the Senate

Finance Committee. It seems the finance committee had larger problems on its hands at the time with the financial meltdown.

The "Bicycle Commuter Benefits Act" was signed into law this October as part of the Wall Street Bailout package. Bicycle commuters can be reimbursed tax free up to \$20 per month for "reasonable" expenses related to their commute if bicycling is a "substantial part" of the commuter's trip to work that month. Expenses include bicycle and equipment purchases, repairs, and storage. The legislation includes bicycling in the same law that reimburses employers and employees for mass transit. While \$20 per month may not add up to too much for the bike commuter, it legitimizes bicycling as a commuting mode.

Residents from New Hampshire have not been able to benefit from existing commuter benefits because the state lacks large transit providers and the local geography tends to be more suitable to for carpools and bicycles than mass transit. These pieces of legislation can help encourage healthier travel modes that are cleaner for our air, the environment, and our wallets.

## NH Department of Environmental Services is a PATH Employer

The Department of Environmental Services has partnered with PATH to help encourage their employees to find alternative ways to commute to work. There have continually been DES employees signing up for PATH that either carpool, bicycle, or walk to work. A big 'thank you' is in order to Kathy Brockett who has worked tirelessly to promote PATH at the agency. PATH staff this year plans to work with all state agencies to help them become more green and save green. If you are a wellness coordinator or human resources professional, please contact PATH staff and we can provide you our employer packets and talk to you about outreach efforts at your office.

## PATH Membership Cards are in the mail

We have dozens of PATH cards in the mail. PATH has arranged with several retailers in Concord to offer discounted prices to all PATH members (details to come). The cards also contain useful information about how to take advantage of the Emergency Ride Home service in case you are stuck without a ride home in the event of an emergency.

To have your PATH card sent to you by mail, simply reply to this email requesting one. We recommend giving us your mailing address in case we don't already have it.

PATH's mission is to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and increase societal emphasis on personal fitness through the creation of services and materials which promote transportation options to the single occupancy vehicle.

Craig Tufts  
CNHRPC

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