

### The Issue: Traffic Congestion

MPC's *Moving at the Speed of Congestion* study found traffic gridlock costs the Chicago region \$7.3 billion annually, in lost time, fuel, and environmental damage. For commuters, sitting in traffic diminishes productivity, increases stress levels, and lowers overall quality of life. For employers, congestion decreases employee satisfaction and retention, and increases parking and health care costs.



### The Solution: Commute Options

To mitigate the negative effect of traffic congestion, the Chicago Climate Action Plan has set a goal of reducing 19,000 cars daily from area roads. MPC is helping to advance this goal through the Commute Options program and Employer-Assisted Housing initiative. In conjunction with the Civic Consulting Alliance, MPC is working with individual employers to create a customized menu of driving alternatives for their employees, connecting them with a range of programs and services, including local transit providers, community partners, and local governments.

With an uncertain economy, fluctuating gas prices, and the need to retain a productive workforce, there is no better time for employers to play a role in achieving better air quality, improving employee satisfaction and retention, and creating more livable communities.

Examples of Commute Options that MPC will help employers design and administer include:

- Pre-tax transit benefits
- Employer-assisted housing and home energy-efficiency retrofits
- Car and ride-share
- Vanpools
- Bike to work
- Proximate commute (working from a different office or business location closer to home)
- Tele-commute and flexible work schedules

#### Commute Options Program Benefits

- Attract and retain skilled, valued employees
- Expand labor pool
- Reduce traffic-related stress and parking costs
- Improve community health and reduce health care costs
- Take advantage of corporate tax incentives
- Enhance company image
- Support sustainability efforts
- Free Commute Options survey and recommendations
- Cost-free evaluation of program results

#### For More Information

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