



University of Houston

Division of Administration and Finance

University Services

## **Press Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **UH Green Commuter Program Announced**

In an effort to develop economical and green commuter solutions for students, faculty and staff, Parking & Transportation Services announced Friday the creation of phase 1 of the UH Green Commuter Program.

“Students, faculty and staff are looking for ways to be green and during these tight economic times, being green can also be affordable,” said Bob Browand, director of Parking & Transportation Services.

A recent study released by the American Public Transportation Association reported that a person can achieve an average annual savings rate of \$8,416 by taking public transportation instead of driving. This savings is based on current gas prices and the average unreserved parking rate.

The UH Green Commuter web site provides tools for students, faculty and staff to begin using METRO by being or finding a METRO Buddy; calculate their current commute; and form a car pool or van pool with friends. Students, faculty and staff that form a van pool can dramatically reduce their gas and on-campus parking costs by sharing these costs with their colleagues and friends, Browand said. A map of all the current METRO Bus stops on campus is also provided to help the community plan their trip by METRO to campus.

For students, faculty and staff interested in starting the new year in the UH Green Commuter Program can take the first step by completing the UH Green Commuter E-Pledge to make a difference in the environment. For those who have more questions about van pools, car pools or METRO, a UH Green Commuter Fair is scheduled for January 27th and 28th on the UH campus.

“Often, the first step toward green behavior is the hardest,” said Emily Messa, assistant vice president for university services. “The first time I rode the METRO Bus, I wasn’t sure what to expect. Afterward, I was grateful for the opportunity to read a couple chapters in a really good book and not fight traffic. What a great way to begin the work day.

For more information on the UH Green Commuter Program, please go to <http://www.uh.edu/parking> or call 713-743-5723.

About the University of Houston

The University of Houston, Texas’ premier metropolitan research and teaching institution, is home to more than 40 research centers and institutes and sponsors more than 300 partnerships with corporate, civic and governmental entities. UH, the most diverse research university in the country stands at the forefront of education, research and service with more than 35,000 students.