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[EVENTS](#)

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## ACT CALENDAR



**January 12**

[Webinar: DEI & Vanpools](#)

**February 2**

[Webinar: Back to the Future of Transportation 2023](#)

**February 5-7**

[ImpACT Leadership](#)

**February 7**

[Board of Directors Meeting](#)

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## TDM Careers



**[Executive Director](#)**

Williamsburg Area Transit Authority

**[Manager](#)**

Commuteride

**[Program Manager](#)**

Flexride Milwaukee

**[Program Director, Communications and Policy](#)**

Commuter Seattle

**[Principal Planner](#)**

Valley Regional Transit

[Career Hub Home](#)

Greetings!

Welcome to our final Connections Newsletter of 2022! I wish you all a joyous holiday season and a very happy New Year.



Flipping the calendar to 2023 will bring some big changes at ACT, including new leadership on the national Board of Directors. I want to extend a sincere thank you to our outgoing President, Connie McGee, for her four years of service and leadership. Connie had the unique challenge of leading the organization through the pandemic and its economic and programmatic impacts – cancelled conferences, virtual events, and postponed programs. I know that the goals Connie had when she took on the role had to be tweaked or tabled, but I am grateful for her ability to work through the fog of unknowns, enabling ACT to be agile and responsive to the needs of our members.

At its final meeting of the year last week, ACT's Board of Directors adopted our 2023 Work Plan and Budget, which focuses on bolstering the value of membership, the development of targeted new programs, supporting member involvement in advancing TDM advocacy, and hosting the industry's best events. Many of these efforts will be guided by ACT's committees, which are made up of members just like you. Many of our committees have at least one or two open seats on them and if you might have interest in helping ACT in 2023, reach out and let me know. If you're a TDM-CP you can even earn valuable recertification credits for your service.

I would also like to recognize all of our outgoing and incoming leaders of ACT's chapters and councils. These individuals play an important role within ACT, delivering value to members at the local level and helping advance the understanding of important TDM topics. I encourage all of you to visit the [chapter](#) and [council](#) pages on our new website to view and connect with your leaders.

The end of the year is also a great time to make sure that your membership profile is up to date, especially with the launch of our new website. You can reset your password (required for your first visit to the new site), review your contact information, select councils to engage with, and list your areas of interest for others to connect with you. I encourage you to take a moment to [login and review](#) your profile today.

Best regards,

David Straus  
Executive Director

# A Year End Review of the Commuter Tax Benefit

Written By: Larry Filler, Deputy Project Manager/ Program Strategist, AECOM

As the year winds down, it's a good time to remind TDM professionals of an important benefit program that continues to provide a major incentive to use transit, vanpools and even carpools. The commuter tax benefit, referred to technically as the Qualified Transportation Fringe, Internal Revenue Code Section 132(f), gives commuters a substantial tax break. What has caught the attention of many is that the benefit will increase to \$300 a month starting on January 1. Here's a quick overview of the tax break.



The commuter tax benefit is an employer-provided, tax-free benefit. It is available to employees who commute to work by any type of transit or vanpools (technically called commuter highway vehicles). The benefit can be offered, pre-tax, as a subsidy or a combination. Many employers offer the pre-tax version as it is paid for with an employee's salary before taxes saving the employee payroll related taxes which can be as high as 30% or more. Originally, the benefit was only available as a tax-free subsidy before the pre-tax option was added in 1998, and accounts for a smaller percentage of employer...

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## ACT Webinar: DEI and Vanpools



Join us as Heather Biney, Commute Sales Manager at Commute with Enterprise, and Dezra Nauls, Program Manager at Houston Metro, discuss approaching DEI barriers and marketing in vanpools. We have seen a big shift these past two years that has resulted in new opportunities for vanpools. With these opportunities, it's important that we understand the barriers and challenges and how to overcome them. They will share insights, experiences and perspectives to help us better understand these new opportunities with DEI and Vanpools.

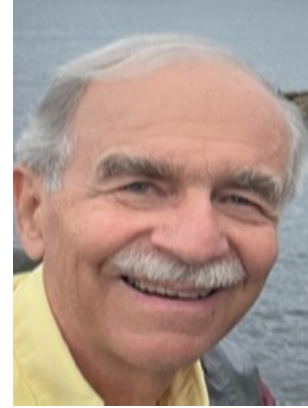
[Register Now](#)

## Remembering Lew Pratch

Reprinted from the Ridesharing Institute, Board of Directors

With great sadness, we share news of the passing of Lew Pratsch, a strong advocate of carpools and vanpools for 50 years, and a Ridesharing Institute Board member, on December 1, 2022.

Lew's first major social impact, 50 years ago, was the creation and publication of the pioneering "*Carpool and Vanpool Matching Guide*" published by USDOT/FHWA in multiple editions. (<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=ien.35556021236757&view=1up&seq=3>). It gained national recognition and widespread usage during the severe oil shortage of 1973-74, as one of the few rapid and effective responses to that huge transportation crisis that saw blocks-long queues of cars waiting their turn at all gas stations. It was used by state and local governments, plus many corporations. In that same period, Lew published an article in *Civil Engineering* magazine: "*Carpools: The Underutilized Resource*." It also made national impact when Senator Hubert Humphrey had it published in the Congressional Record.



In the mid-1970's, Lew moved from FHWA to the Department of Energy, where he managed several energy-conservation programs for most of his career. He became a strong advocate for **vanpools**, via many publications and presentations to state and local governments, corporations, and trade groups. At DOE, Lew expanded his role to also become a strong proponent for energy conservation in homes and buildings, for which he was active nationally up thru 2010, with many conference presentations and publications. Lew's career milestones are visible at: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lew-pratsch-359a7293/>

In the 1970's and early 1980's, Lew played a key role in growing the National Assn. of Vanpool Operators (NAVPO), one of two parent organizations of the current Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT). Lew practiced what he preached. He purchased a...

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Reading

## Session Proposals: 37th International Conference - DUE December 31

Proposals for sessions at the **37th Annual International Conference** are due December 31st, 2022! We are seeking innovative, timely, and diverse ideas from the field of TDM along with organizational and program management on a variety of themes.

Learn More &  
Submit



ACT Webinar: Back to the Future of Transportation



We often think about the future as a series of cutting-edge innovations and improvements waiting to be discovered and implemented. The assumptions we make about the future imply that we get to keep all the things we currently LIKE and replace or upgrade the things we don't. Then reality steps in and reminds us that we sometimes have to take two steps back in order to take another step forward. Join Futurist and Technology Innovations Trends Researcher Mike Courtney as he explores what's next in transportation, including a look at how challenging our current assumptions can result in a more resilient future.

Register Today

## Don't Miss These *Connect* Discussions

There are many great conversations taking place on *Connect*, ACT's online member community. And don't forget to introduce yourself and welcome new members!

[Introduce Yourself!](#)

[Connect is Back!](#)

[What are your local transit providers doing to address driver shortages?](#)



## Welcome New Members!

**Eric Courchesne**  
Future Streets Design

**Michael Espinoza**  
Portland Bureau of Transportation

**Michael Hughes**  
West Line Corridor Collaborative

**Sheila LeFang**  
MTA Harris County-Vanpool

**Martin Ndegwa**  
Student

**Cameron Roberts**  
University Circle Inc.

**Barbara Sayed**  
ByteDance/TikTok

**Janis Scott**  
Retiree

**Danicel Whitaker**  
MTA Harris County-CRS

**[Encourage your colleagues to join](#); the larger our community, the greater our impact!**

Don't forget that you get credit for every new organizational or self-employed member you recruit over the lifetime of your membership. Want to Win the Pin? Check out the details and report your recruitment efforts on ACT's [Member Recruitment Campaign](#) page.



## Featured Events & Programs



Join Our Mailing List!