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NEWS RELEASE

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DISPLACED METRO RIDERS TURNING TO RIDEFINDERS VANPOOL PROGRAM FOR A NEW RIDE TO WORK THAT AFFORDS THEM MANY OF THE SAME ADVANTAGES OF RIDING TRANSIT *4 newly formed vanpool groups set to hit the road on Monday March 30*

GRANITE CITY, IL, March 27, 2009 . . . As many Metro riders still struggle with finding an alternate commute to work, hundreds of others have found a viable solution through RideFinders, which provides a free ridematching database to help commuters in the St. Louis region team up in carpools or vanpools. RideFinders extensive outreach efforts over the past several weeks have resulted in the formation four new vanpools in March alone that originate in South and West County and will hit the road Monday, March 30, the day Metro's service cuts officially take effect.

"While the 410X will no longer be running, I will still be sharing the ride to work downtown with several of my fellow bus passengers, thanks to RideFinders," noted Jane Suozzi of Ballwin, a passenger and back up driver in one of the new vanpools. "They've just been great to work with." The interest from displaced Metro riders such as Jane who are recognizing that vanpooling can be a viable option has propelled RideFinders to grow from just 875 vanpool participants as of the end of FY 08 (June 30, 2008), to a record high of over 1,000 vanpoolers for FY 09, with three months in the fiscal year yet to go.

RideFinders vanpools are utilized for the work commute by individuals who share the cost of the vehicle and gas, with the primary vanpool driver actually getting to commute for free. With the ability to accommodate up to 15 passengers, the cost of commuting in one of these vans is significantly less than the cost of a solo commute, making it a great alternative for those who appreciated transit's affordability. Vanpool passengers also still get to read, sleep or get a jump start on their day. RideFinders vanpool groups even get up to 4, \$60 free taxi rides home if they have to work late or leave work early, through the Guaranteed Ride Home program.

Joe Wright, director of RideFinders notes, "For weeks, our representatives have been visiting various commuter lots to get the word about RideFinders services out to impacted riders like Jane. The message has been simple: you don't have to fall back into driving to work alone; carpooling or vanpooling can be viable options so people can still get to work in an affordable way that offers many of the same benefits as transit ridership."

METRO RIDERS TURN TO RIDEFINDERS VANPOOLS FIRST AND FINAL ADD

Participation in the RideFinders program is easy. Commuters first register with RideFinders free ridematching service at www.ridefinders.org or (800) 847-7433 with their home and work addresses, work hours and preferences. Commuters who do not own a vehicle or are unable to drive can sign up to share the ride with someone who does. Next, commuters receive a list of other commuters or vanpools with similar commutes to theirs to contact. Once they make arrangements to carpool or vanpool, they register with RideFinders for free to receive the Guaranteed Ride Home benefit.

Employers also are encouraged to join RideFinders at no cost to help employees who may be impacted by Metro's service cuts or simply are seeking a more affordable workday commute. In return for their free participation in RideFinders, these employers provide their employees with ridesharing information and incentives to drive them to carpool or vanpool to work. Employers interested in joining RideFinders can call (800) 847-7433 or E-mail ridefinders@mct.org.

Created and operated by Madison County Transit (MCT) since 1994, RideFinders improves the quality of life and work in the St. Louis by providing a free ridematching service to help over 9,000 commuters carpool or vanpool to work, and by partnering with almost 1,500 employers to provide free ridesharing information and incentives to commuters at work. RideFinders is operated as a free public service by MCT for commuters who work in St. Louis City and St. Louis, St. Charles, Jefferson and Franklin Counties in Missouri; and Madison, St. Clair and Monroe Counties in Illinois through federal grant funding from the United States Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. For more information, visit www.ridefinders.org or call (800) 847-7433.

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Editor's Note: ***The attached sheet provides more details on RideFinders vanpool program. As you continue your coverage of the ripple effects of Metro's cuts, we would be happy to arrange for an advance interview on the role RideFinders is playing in helping Metro's displaced customers or to coordinate interviews or a ride-along with one of the new vanpool groups that will be on the road starting on March 30. Please let us know how you would like to proceed.***