

Commute Alternatives, a program of AMBAG, will be hosting the second webinar in a series of the 2010 netconferences provided by ACT and National Center for Transportation Research. This netconference, titled "Boosting Morale, Performance and Savings Via Compressed Work Week," will be held on Thursday, June 24, 2010 at 11:00 am.



Compressed work weeks are an alternative work schedule that allows employees to work more hours per day, but work fewer days per week. One example is the 4/40 program in which an employee works four 10-hour days and takes the fifth day off. Compressed work weeks have been shown to have a positive impact on morale, job satisfaction and productivity for the employee, and companies are able to recruit and retain valuable skilled workers by offering alternatives to the traditional nine to five schedule.

See below for more information about the netconference which features two presenters who will share their organization's experiences in introducing compressed work week programs. The conference will be educational to employers and human resource professionals interested implementing alternative work schedules to reduce the number of days their employee has to commute into the office.

The webinar will be held at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County: 55-B Plaza Circle Salinas, CA 93901 Light refreshments will be served. ***If you would like to attend the webinar please reply to this email aschenk@ambag.org to reserve a seat.***

Boosting Morale, Performance and Savings Via Compressed Work Weeks

The National Center for Transit Research's National TDM and Telework Clearinghouse at the University of South Florida is pleased to announce another netconference for 2010.

Green Friday at City of Avondale

In June 2008, Avondale, Ariz. (population 82,000 (2008)) was the first city in the state to move to a four-day work week. Known as Green Friday, the program was embraced by employees and the public alike as a means of saving taxpayer dollars, providing enhanced customer service with longer hours Monday through Thursday, reducing single occupancy vehicle trips, and boosting morale and productivity. Pier Simeri, Community Relations & Public Affairs Director, City of Avondale, will describe how they made it work with right timing, progressive leadership, flexibility, understanding customers' needs, and creative marketing. All were ingredients for Avondale's Green Friday success.

The Working 4 Utah Initiative

In August 2008, Utah Governor Jon Huntsman launched the Working 4 Utah initiative. This initiative was intended to extend state government services that are not already available during extended hours and weekends – from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The purpose of the initiative was to make a positive impact in the areas of energy consumption, extended customer service, employee recruitment and retention, and reducing the environmental impact of state government operations. Jeff Herring, the Executive Director of the Department of Human Resource Management for the State of Utah, will summarize the lessons learned and impacts that informed the discussion about whether the change should be made permanent. For example, the final employee survey indicated the negative impact of the initiative on commuters using transit was less than anticipated (9% actual instead of 14% anticipated). While this is encouraging, the amount of employees impacted is still significant. The State encouraged carpooling by developing an online matching tool specific to state employees.