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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE— May 7, 2018 Shannon O'Connell, Director Office of Communications & Public Engagement Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (412) 391-5590 x334; soconnell@spcregion.org

## MAY IS COMMUTEINFO COMMUTE OPTIONS AWARENESS MONTH

## **CommuteInfo Commuter Challenge – New for 2018**

PITTSBURGH, PA — The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) is encouraging all commuters in Southwestern Pennsylvania to learn more about commuting options available in our region. To focus attention on available commuting alternatives, SPC has proclaimed May to be **CommuteInfo Commute Options**Awareness Month. During May, SPC's CommuteInfo program is promoting the benefits of alternatives to driving alone. The goal of SPC's CommuteInfo program is for commuters in Southwestern Pennsylvania to choose ridesharing at least twice a week.

New for 2018, CommuteInfo is hosting a "Commuter Challenge" to encourage people to try transit, vanpool, carpool, biking or walking for their commuting trips during the week of May 14 – 18, 2018.

By participating in the challenge, commuters can find a new way to get to work or school AND have a chance to get rewarded for doing so.

Anyone 18 years and older who works, lives, or goes to school in the 10-county region (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Fayette, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland) is encouraged to take the challenge. Signing up is simple and quick: INSERT LINK HERE

CommuteInfo helps contribute to enhancing the overall environmental and economic sustainability of our region by helping regional commuters choose a more sustainable commute, while connecting with jobs.

Over 75% of the workers in the SPC region drive alone to work. If fewer commuters drove alone, there would be less traffic congestion and the air would be cleaner. And commuters could save money. Alternatives to driving alone, like vanpooling, carpooling, using public transit or biking to work, are just a few of the ways to lower the cost of commuting.

For more information about CommuteInfo, the CommuteInfo Commuter Challenge, or commuter alternatives, please visit <a href="www.commuteinfo.org">www.commuteinfo.org</a>, or call toll free **1-888-819-6110**.

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) is the region's forum for collaboration, planning and public decision-making. As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the ten-county region including the City of Pittsburgh and the counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland, SPC is responsible for planning and prioritizing the use of all state and federal transportation funds allocated to the region. As the Local Development District (LDD) and Economic Development District for Southwestern Pennsylvania (as designated by the U.S. Appalachian Regional Commission and the U.S. Department of Commerce), SPC establishes regional economic development priorities and provides a wide range of public services to the region.