

NEWS



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CITY BEGINS FIRST PHASE OF MAJOR FLEET REDUCTION

Innovative PhillyCarShare Program to Fulfill Transportation Needs

PHILADELPHIA--The Street Administration is dramatically reducing the number of vehicles it provides to City employees as one of the key initiatives to address a potential \$227 million deficit in the next fiscal year. Phase I of the Street Administration's Citywide Fleet Reduction Project ("CFRP") starts today with the elimination of the first 50 administrative vehicles from departments located in the Triplex (City Hall, One Parkway and the Municipal Services Building) that have primarily administrative functions.

"City employees are applying their expertise and ingenuity to provide high-quality City services with fewer resources. The concrete results of this project will be a smaller, more efficient and effective fleet. Less tangible is the major cultural change that is taking place in the City of Philadelphia; take-home vehicles, administrative sedans and SUVs, and underutilized operational vehicles are being taken out of the fleet," said Phil Goldsmith, Managing Director.

As of today, over 50 vehicles (sedans and SUV's) have been relinquished by the Mayor's Office, Office of the Director of Finance, Managing Director's Office, Office of Fleet Management, Commission on Human Relations, Law Department, Mayor's Office of Community Services, Mayor's Office of Information Services, Personnel Department, City Planning Commission, Procurement Department, Records Department and Revenue Department. Most of these vehicles had been take-home vehicles, used for both commuting and business use.

The City currently has over 400 non-police sedans and SUVs and spends an average of \$6,200 annually for each vehicle in fuel, parts, parking, labor and amortized acquisition costs. In the future, instead of City-owned vehicles, many City employees will use transportation alternatives that are both convenient and economical. Because of the balanced and innovative approach to fleet reduction, programmed fleet reductions should not produce any disruptive impacts – administrative or otherwise – to City services.

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The goal is to reduce the City's fleet by 400 vehicles to save hundreds of thousands of dollars for parking, maintenance and vehicle parts. In the long-term, policies and procedures created and transportation alternatives developed will enable Philadelphia to contain and reduce fleet size as part of a continual, consistent, and structured effort.

Phase II of the project will focus on operational departments, such as the Streets Department, and will explore opportunities to reduce both administrative vehicles as well as underutilized operational vehicles.

“While certain City employees require vehicular transportation, the provision of a dedicated city-owned vehicle is usually the most expensive option. In the future, employees who need transportation will be directed to other accommodations, such as enrollment in the City's Personal Auto, Automated Vehicle Sharing Programs, or other transportation alternatives,” said Phil Goldsmith, Managing Director.

The existing Personal Auto Program (PAP) provides a per mile reimbursement to employees using personal vehicles for business-related travel. This successful City program currently has nearly 300 participants and is administered by the Division of Risk Management in the Finance Department.

For employees who do not have a personal vehicle, the City is partnering with a home-grown automated vehicle sharing provider - PhillyCarShare – to provide automated vehicle sharing services. PhillyCarShare is a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing automobile dependence in the Philadelphia region through community-based car sharing. PhillyCarShare operates a rapidly growing fleet of hybrid gas-electric sedans and fuel-efficient wagons that 700+ members use by the hour, from 17 Center City and University City locations. Automated vehicle sharing will help decrease fleet size, reduce costs and improve utilization by enabling multiple drivers to easily use the same vehicle. Available technology enables reliable, secure, and automated 24-hour a day, seven-day a week access to vehicles in one or more locations. Automated scheduling and vehicle access systems process all administrative, scheduling, key management, usage tracking, and billing tasks.

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