

# BEST WORKPLACES for COMMUTERS<sup>SM</sup>

Houston



GREATER  
HOUSTON  
PARTNERSHIP



# METRO



## Fact Sheet

### *Houston's Best Workplaces for Commuters*

#### The Houston Region

- Houston ranks as Texas' most congested urban area.
- It is estimated that almost two million commuters travel Houston's highways at peak times of the day, and more than half of those commuters travel alone.
- Houstonians commuting at peak travel times spend an average of 75 hours a year delayed in traffic.
- The annual cost of traffic congestion for peak road travelers in Houston is estimated at \$1,410.
- Due to traffic delays, peak road travelers in Houston consume 123 gallons of excess fuel annually.

#### Air Quality

- The Houston-Galveston area currently is classified as a 'severe' non-attainment area because ozone levels exceed safe limits as designated by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- The American Lung Association ranked Houston the fifth most polluted city in the nation according to a survey released in May 2003.
- Asthma prevalence in inner-city Houston school children approaches twice the national average.
- Air pollution in Houston results in an estimated three billion dollars in adult health care costs annually.
- Ground-level ozone can reduce lung capacity, diminish the body's ability to fight infection and pose a serious health risk for children, the elderly and people with respiratory ailments.

#### Miscellaneous

- Best Workplaces employers with 1,000 employees can take 175 cars or more off the road, resulting in annual savings of nearly 44,000 gallons of gasoline and a 420-metric ton reduction in global warming emissions.
- A Best Workplaces employer can reduce local air pollution by two metric tons of volatile organic compounds (VOC), two metric tons of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and 15 metric tons of carbon monoxide per year.
- Best Workplaces employers also can lower parking expenses by more than \$70,000, and save participating employees \$13,000 in taxes and \$160,000 in gasoline, parking and vehicle costs every year.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Texas Transportation Institute, American Lung Association, and the Metropolitan Transit Authority.

**Houston's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Coalition**