



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rideshare Information Remains Secure

The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) has taken proactive steps to ensure the security and safety of personal information provided by commuters in Southern California for ridesharing purposes.

Rideshare Week in Southern California kicks off on October 5th. With gas prices once again climbing above \$3 per gallon, sharing the ride is an effective way to cut commute costs. RCTC, along with four other county transportation agencies in Southern California, provides assistance to commuters and employers by providing ridematching services and information through the www.ridematch.info website.

An important key to providing ridematching services is sharing information on work hours and locations, and RCTC is taking aggressive action to ensure that personal information is secure and that privacy issues receive the utmost priority. Recent media reports have published erroneous information regarding the potential vulnerability of personal data.

RCTC takes this charge very seriously and counter to news reports, an exhaustive investigation has taken place.

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Following initial notification of a potential security problem on August 20, 2009, RCTC has performed the following:

1. Performed an internal review to verify that the web application is fully updated for both security patches and system software.
2. The Trapeze Group, authors of the software, performed an exhaustive scan review of RCTC servers, logs and users as well as virus scans and security protocols.
3. Performed a review using Acunetix to verify that SQL injection is not possible and that the system remains secure from this type of attack.
4. Performed a thorough check of RCTC's firewalls including a review of the security certificate in order to ensure that RCTC encryption has not been compromised.

The Trapeze Group which owns and maintains the software used for ridematching purposes has also performed their own internal security review. Trapeze has reassured RCTC that the proper SQL injection filters are in place so that personal information cannot be compromised. Trapeze also maintains that they use application coding to prohibit access without authentication and to look for and filter out invalid url tags. Lastly, Trapeze reiterates that all access to the database is protected by an intermediate layer between the website and the database server which includes extensive security systems.

"There are important points to keep in mind on this topic," said Robert Yates, RCTC's Director of Multi-modal Services who oversees the rideshare program.

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“First of all, there is absolutely no evidence that anyone has been able to obtain sensitive information from the database. Secondly, participation in rideshare programs is entirely voluntary; and matching people for ridesharing and vanpooling requires the exchange of basic information such as work locations, residence locations, and work hours so participants make some information publicly available.

“Lastly, RCTC has contracted with a network security firm to perform an independent third-party stress test and security analysis of our system. This step will further validate the security of the system. Should the tests result in recommendations for achieving better site security those will be implemented immediately”.

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