

Transportation

POLICY STATEMENT: Minimize expenditures for transportation by 10% through more efficient use of existing resources.

DEP leases around 290 vehicles from DAS and owns approximately 370 vehicles. Each vehicle costs between \$350 and \$550 per month (totaling \$140,000/month and \$1.7 million/year).

Reorganize Access to Efficient Vehicles

- Reduce the number of light duty vehicles leased by at least 10% agency-wide
- Identify and eliminate the individual assignment of underutilized vehicles
- Establish vehicle pools at the main and district offices for general use
- Field staff should have access to the most fuel efficient vehicles. If someone at a field office needs a large vehicle a few times in a year, look to create options where a pool of oversized vehicles is available at DEP and other state facilities that can be borrowed and used only when needed by any state agency.
- Enterprise Rent-a-Cars have been eliminated (\$12,000 annual savings)
- Garage leased vehicles in locations close to work stations to minimize gas utilization.

Work with DAS to downsize vehicles, purchase only most fuel efficient and hybrid vehicles, and introduce other options

- DAS orders vehicles used by DEP field staff. Vehicles are kept for six years per guidelines established by OPM. In 2009 and 2010, DEP will be replacing 35 cars each year; DAS will provide recommendations for more efficient replacements (i.e., replace 9 Expeditions with 9 Escape hybrids, replace 5 Crown Victorias with 5 Prius hybrids), and DEP's Agency Transportation Administrator should make every effort to replace with the more efficient vehicle. CGS 4a-67d, states that the fleet average should be at least 40 mpg, but perhaps this should be re-evaluated and increased. Hybrids vehicles should make up a good portion of what will be ordered. On the SUV side there still aren't many options beyond the Ford Escape Hybrid and 2009 production is already fully committed.
- Evaluate and minimize the need for loaner vehicles, e.g., fully retrofitted emergency vehicles that sit idle until they are needed as temporary replacements.

Provide staff with alternatives to fossil fuel vehicles, traveling alone, and the need to travel

- Replace seasonal park vehicles that are used for in-park commuting with golf carts where appropriate.
- Purchase bicycles and helmets that can be used by seasonal park workers instead of trucks and cars and for office staff to use to travel to nearby meetings where appropriate.
- Encourage DEP staff to use public transportation when possible for traveling to meetings and conferences. Routes and schedules are easily found on www.ctrides.com
- Encourage teleconferencing to reduce trips to Hartford, Division offices, and other meetings.
- Utilize carpooling when multiple DEP staff are attending the same meeting or just going to the same town for different meetings. To facilitate this, a calendar on InSite could be developed. A list of Connecticut's Park and Ride lots can be found at www.ct.gov/dot/

search for Park and Ride. NuRide is a ride matching organization supported by the CT DOT that might also be utilized.

Re-evaluate use of state cars for commuting

- Identify and eliminate the use of state leased vehicles for commuting back and forth to work – and monitor usage on an on-going basis.
- DEP field staff with cars assigned to them should map out the most efficient routes to the sites they visit, and try to combine trips whenever possible.

Stress the importance of proper vehicle maintenance for state cars and renewable fuels

- Make sure a system is in place so that cars assigned to field staff follow vehicle maintenance schedules to have tire pressure checked weekly.
- Use B-20 for vehicles and equipment that would otherwise use standard diesel fuel.

Discourage idling of all vehicles driven by DEP staff at all times

- Drivers should be informed that when the vehicle is not in motion, it should be turned off. A sticker can be placed in all vehicles assigned to DEP as a reminder.