



## TOD Local Open Thread: What's your town doing about high gas prices?

Posted by [Glenn](#) on May 25, 2008 - 10:15am in [The Oil Drum: Local](#)

Topic: [Environment/Sustainability](#)

Tags: [adaptation](#), [gas prices](#), [local](#), [peak oil](#) [[list all tags](#)]

With gas prices across the country reaching \$4/gallon--and peak oil starting to become a part of the meme--both forcing many to complain about and adapt to the impact of gas on their budgets, we'd like to hear about what's going on in your county, town, city or suburban/exurban subdivision.

I found some really great examples of how people are adapting from different areas in the US and the world (including examples from high schoolers, employers, and commuter "slugging"--no it's not violent), they are under the fold.

What's happening in your part of the world? How is your area adapting?

(Also, make sure to check out our [call for TOD:Local contributors](#).)

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High school kids seem to be leading the way with [kids walking to school](#) on the side of the highway in Alabama and fighting to [get bike parking at their school](#) in New Jersey.

Employers seem to be interested in helping employees reduce their commuting costs, lest people start demanding more pay. In Jacksonville, FL the [Mayo Clinic has started a carpooling program](#).

The Mayo Clinic not only encourages its employees to carpool, it also rewards them with better parking. "They're interested in the fact that they can help the environment, reduce their carbon footprint and saving money. Also, there's a camaraderie that's being developed," said head of Mayo Clinic campus planning Robert Fontaine. He said so far there are currently about 60 carpools at Mayo Clinic, but he expects that as gas prices continue to go up, so will the number of workers willing to share a ride.

And Virginia commuters have restarted an old practice of "slugging" it to work with complete strangers:

Each weekday morning, in large parking lots in the Washington, D.C., suburbs, hundreds of people stand in lines waiting for free rides to work from total strangers. The practice, which famously began in the Washington area in the 1970s, is known as "slugging."

By taking on extra passengers, or "slugs," a Virginia driver can use the state's High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, which can require up to three people per car.

For the last three decades, members of this underground suburban society have believed that everybody wins; the entire carload is ensured a traffic-free ride up

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notoriously clogged Interstates 95 and 395 to work at the Pentagon and other office buildings in Arlington, Va., and downtown Washington.

What's happening in your part of the world?



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