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Car Sharing Association Announced; Ithaca Carshare Among Founding Members

Washington, DC (January 24, 2011)—Eighteen carsharing organizations around the world have announced formation of an association that sets the ethical, social and environmental bar for the carsharing industry. The driving principles of the new CarSharing Association (CSA) focus on environmental and social impact and responsibility, education, research and ethical practices (www.carsharing.org).

The goals of carsharing organizations in the CSA include reducing the number of cars on the road, relieving congestion, and increasing transportation options. Unlike “cars on demand” services, member carsharing organizations are “transit-oriented” services, encouraging carsharing as part of a sustainable transportation network of choices that includes walking, cycling, and transit.

“We view our carsharing programs as an important public service, providing mobility that fixed-route transit and active transportation can’t,” said Jennifer Dotson, Executive Director of Upstate New York’s Ithaca Carshare, at 13 vehicles and 1000 members one of the smallest organizations in the new CarSharing Association. “Ithaca Carshare and other members of the Association are an important part of the transit community; enhancing mobility options and sustainable communities at the same time.”

The Association’s member organizations span from Sydney to Halifax to Minneapolis to Sao Paolo and represent approximately 100,000 members across the globe. CSA members include innovators of carsharing in North America, the oldest of which has been operating since 1994. Unlike traditional car rental, carsharers use vehicles by the hour at a cost that includes gas, insurance, parking and maintenance. The CSA encourages closer integration of shared services among member organizations, including roaming memberships, support of other sustainable transportation, and facilitation of research.

“Carsharing is a reliable and flexible alternative to car ownership,” states the CSA’s founding document, “Its mission, vision and values lead to actions aimed at decreasing individual car ownership, reducing vehicle distance traveled, improving urban land use and development, and providing affordable access to vehicles for all constituencies – including those less able to afford car ownership.”

CSA members have created and agree to adhere to a strict Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for carsharing. Key themes include upholding the association’s social and environmental commitment, establishing and maintaining standards for the industry, quality of service to members and stakeholders, and vital public education and research.

Founding members of the CarSharing Association are:



Ashland CarShare (Ashland)

Media contact: Becky Brown ashlandcarshare@gmail.com

AutoShare (Toronto)

Media contact: Kevin McLaughlin kevin@autoshare.com

Buffalo CarShare (Buffalo)

Media contact: Creighton Randall c.randall@buffalocarshare.org

The Car Co-op (Vancouver)

Media contact: Tanya Paz tanya@car.coop

CarShare Vermont (Burlington)

Media contact: Candy Page cpage@burlingtonfreepress.com

CarShareHFX (Halifax)

Media contact: Pam Cooley pmcooley@carsharehfx.ca

City CarShare (San Francisco)

Media contact: Anita Daley adaley@citycarshare.org

CityWheels (Cleveland)

Media contact: Ryan McKenzie ryan@mycitywheels.com

Communauto (Montreal, Quebec City, Gatineau, Sherbrooke)

Media contact: Marco Viviani mviviani@communauto.ca

Community Car (Madison)

Media contact: John Ribolzi john.ribolzi@communitycar.com

eGo CarShare (Denver and Boulder)

Media contact: Karen Worminghaus karen@carshare.org

GoGet (Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane)

Media contact: Bruce Jeffreys bruce@goget.com.au

HOURCAR (Minneapolis)

Media contact: Christopher Bineham christopherb@thenec.org

I-GO Car Sharing (Chicago)

Media contact: Sharon Feigon sharon@igocars.org

Ithaca Carshare (Ithaca)

Media contact: Jennifer Dotson jennifer@ithacacarshare.org

PhillyCarShare (Philadelphia)

Media contact: Judith Harvey judith@phillycarshare.org

VRTUCAR (Ottawa)

Media contact: Wilson Wood woodw@vrtcar.com

Zazcar (Sao Paulo)

Media contact: Felipe Barroso contato@zazcar.com.br

Ithaca Carshare is a locally controlled nonprofit carsharing organization that enhances community access to transportation while reducing its negative environmental and economic impacts. Since launch of service in 2008 the organization has grown to serve over 1,000 members with a fleet of 13 vehicles around Ithaca, and regularly works in partnership with human service, environmental, community, financial and other organizations to further its mission.

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