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### **St. Louis Celebrates National RideShare Month**

*RideFinders Honors Carpoolers, Vanpoolers and Local Companies for their Sustainable Achievements*

**St. Louis – (October 11, 2016)** In celebration of October being National Rideshare month, RideFinders, the St. Louis area free public ridesharing service, has presented the City of St. Louis, Monsanto and Maritz with its 2016 Regional Sustainability Awards.

The awards recognize businesses, institutions and organizations that actively promote sustainable transportation and support RideFinders' efforts to reduce traffic congestion and improve regional air quality.

“Carpooling removes nearly 4,500 vehicles and 150,000 driving miles from our region’s roadways daily,” said RideFinders spokesperson SJ Morrison. “We are grateful for the support of the City of St. Louis, Monsanto and Maritz in helping to drive positive change in the St. Louis region through sustainable commuting.”

In order to increase awareness and participation in ridesharing, RideFinders is meeting monthly with the City’s offices, agencies, departments and divisions. RideFinders presented the Sustainability Award to City of St. Louis representatives Mayor Francis G. Slay, Sustainability Director Catherine Werner and Safety Officer Charles Pratt (who also serves as a RideFinders Employee Transportation Coordinator).

“Caring for our planet can benefit people, the environment and our local economy,” said Slay. “The City of St. Louis has been advancing a number of climate protection initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from both buildings and vehicles. An important way to reduce vehicle emissions is to reduce the number of cars on the road; this is why carpooling—and the RideFinders program—is so valuable.”

Long-time RideFinders supporter Monsanto has tremendously increased in its carpool registrations during 2016. RideFinders presented the award to Monsanto representatives Sustainable Development Lead Dion McBay; Environmental Engineer Jessica Hughes (who also serves as a RideFinders Employee Transportation Coordinator); Director of Corporate Services Oscar Berryman; Global Environmental, Safety and Health Lead Rod Denton; St. Louis Sites Environmental and Sustainability Lead Justin Prien; Environmental Engineer Anna Tang; and Environmental Specialist Christina Allen.

“Whether working with farmers in their fields, at one of our seed sites, or here at our corporate headquarters, Monsanto seeks to incorporate sustainability into how we do business,” said McBay. “RideFinders is a tangible sustainability practice in which our St. Louis-area employees can participate. We are honored to partner with RideFinders and support its efforts to improve air quality in the region.”

Maritz has been an active participant in the RideFinders program since 1995, one year after the ridesharing program was instituted. RideFinders presented the award to Maritz representatives Senior Director of HR Services Karen Staten, Employee Services Manager Donna Kardell (who serves as a RideFinders Employee Transportation Coordinator) and Maritz Green Team representative Larry Corley.

“At Maritz, we care deeply about our impact on the environment, both as corporate citizens and as leaders in our community,” said Karen Staten. “Maritz knows that consciously working toward preserving our world is a day-to-day responsibility that not only benefits our employees, clients and community, but also contributes to a better future. We are pleased to work with RideFinders in order to make St. Louis an even better place to work and live.”

### **About RideFinders**

RideFinders operates as a free public ridesharing service, organizing and promoting carpools, vanpools and schoolpools, for employers and commuters working in St. Louis City and St. Louis, St. Charles, Jefferson and Franklin Counties in Missouri; and Jersey, Madison, St. Clair and Monroe Counties in Illinois.

The organization is operated by Madison County Transit (MCT) and is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program with support from the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Illinois Department of Transportation and the East-West Gateway Council of Governments.

For more information about RideFinders, go to <http://www.ShareTheRideSTL.com/>

### People in the award photos

#### City of St. Louis

From left to right: RideFinders representatives Sarah Jackson, Eric Casper and SJ Morrison; and City of St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay (holding award) and Safety Officer Charles Pratt.

#### Monsanto

Far left and far right: RideFinders representatives Joe Wright and SJ Morrison.

Between Wright and Morrison: Monsanto representatives Environmental Engineer Anna Tang, Environmental Specialist Christina Allen, Environmental Engineer Jessica Hughes (holding award), Sustainable Development Lead Dion McBay, St. Louis Sites Environmental and Sustainability Lead Justin Prien (holding award), and Global Environmental Safety and Health Lead Rod Denton.

#### Maritz

From left to right: RideFinders representatives Eric Casper and SJ Morrison; Maritz representatives Senior Director of HR Services Karen Staten (holding award), Technical Project Manager and Green Team representative Larry Corley, and Employee Services Manager Donna Kardell.