

VANPOOLING FAQs

Q. What is vanpooling?

A. Vanpooling is a “lease” program where a group of commuters receive a van from WTA for the purpose of commuting to work on a regular basis. This means a once-per-day trip to and from work, where the van stays at work during the workday and at a driver’s home otherwise.

Q. How much does it cost to vanpool?

A. Vanpool fares are based on the total miles put on the van during a month. This monthly cost is split among the number of people riding in the van and covers all maintenance, insurance, and fuel. While riders pay a portion of the van’s total costs, taxpayers also help offset costs. Mileage is determined from reports a bookkeeper turns into WTA at the end of the month. Also, companies often offer a subsidy to vanpool—contact your firm (usually HR department) to find out what is offered.

Q. What kind of vanpool vehicles are available?

A. WTA offers 8, 12, and 15 passenger vehicles. However, this is the “official” rating—most groups find they can realistically hold 2-3 fewer people, depending on their size, how many personal items are usually carried, etc. Fares are the same regardless of van size.

Q. What is needed to form a vanpool?

A. At least five people are needed to start a vanpool. Several of these people must be eligible and willing to drive, meaning they must have a good driving record and attend a safety class, required by WTA’s insurance provider.

Q. How is the van operated?

A. The vanpool group sets its own “internal” rules of where to pick up/drop off, how many riders to accept, who sits where, etc. Riders agree on a backup plan in case drivers are unavailable, the van breaks down, etc. WTA can always assist with establishing plans. Riders sign agreements as far as requirements to WTA.

Q. What commitment is required to vanpool?

A. We ask for at least a six-month commitment. It takes time to get people into the habit of vanpooling. But once people try vanpooling, most really enjoy it and appreciate the service WTA offers.

Q. What else do I need to know?

A. Contact Kim Cederstrom at WTA at 752-4596 for more information.