

## Getting You There

# RIDESHARE



### Why Carpool?

Carpooling is a great way to save money. Use the [Commuter Cost Calculator](http://www.commuterolutions.com/commute-cost-calculator/) to find out your savings!

The American Automobile Association (AAA) calculates the composite average cost per mile for all vehicle types and publishes the data on its website each year. Use the [AAA calculator](https://exchange.aaa.com/automotive/driving-costs/#.XAbca9tKhOT) to learn your estimated Annual Cost per Mile.

Carpooling helps reduce carbon emissions! You can calculate your carbon footprint with U. S. EPA's [Carbon Footprint Calculator](https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/).

Carpooling reduces traffic on our roads and the need for parking spaces.

Carpooling is an option that can give you great flexibility.

Carpooling is also a wonderful way to meet interesting people, get to know the people you work with, go to school with, and to make new friends.

According to numerous health reports and research, auto emissions can significantly increase the likelihood of health issues such as asthma, allergies, lung cancer, COPD, and more. Research data has also suggested that carpooling can be far less stressful than simply commuting on your own.

### CARPOOL PROGRAMS

Members of a carpool use private vehicles to share rides to and from common destinations like work or school. The carpool members get together and decide on ground rules for sharing rides including who will drive, sharing of costs, meeting points, and other details. If you are interested in participating in a carpool, connect with other interested people through work or school sites.

#### Items to Consider in Creating a Carpool

- Decide if you are going to drive alternate days, drive every day, or ride every day.
- If it is not a shared driving arrangement, agree on a payment schedule.
- Set up a line of communication. Let the driver know in advance if your plans change (if possible the day before). Remember to give notice of days you won't be sharing the ride due to personal schedules and plans.
- Establish time schedules and pick-up points. Be prompt.
- Establish a rule for latecomers. Decide how long the carpool will wait for a passenger (usually no more than 5 minutes).
- Avoid side trips on the way home.
- Keep the car clean, well maintained, and filled with enough gas for each trip.
- Decide on radio use, smoking policies, and other similar concerns before you start carpooling. For example, will snacks and/or beverages be allowed?
- Have a back-up plan for emergency situations. For example, if your carpool driver must leave early for due to illness, a family emergency or unexpectedly has to stay late, what is the carpooling plan? What are your other transportation options?
- Develop an environment that encourages open discussion of carpool-related conflicts or problems.
- Establish a communication plan so adjustments can be made with minimum inconvenience.
- An agreement to a carpool is not a binding contract. If you find carpooling is not for you, give your group sufficient notice so they can make alternate arrangements or find a replacement.

*For more information and assistance, contact*

*Martha Cazaubon*

*South Central Planning and Development Commission*

[martha@scpdc.org](mailto:martha@scpdc.org)

985-851-2900, Ext. 2030

