

## **Vanpool Frequently Asked Questions**

### **I'd like to start a Vanpool group. How difficult is it?**

Starting a UTA Vanpool is not difficult at all! If your company has a UTA Vanpool already, contact your HR or benefits manager where you work to find out if an existing Vanpool will work for you.

If you have several neighbors or friends who work with or near you, you can Vanpool together. There may be an existing vanpool with some open seats for you. Or you can start your own vanpool.

### **Can the company I work for start a Vanpool for employees?**

Absolutely! Many companies around the area sponsor Vanpools for their employees. It's a great benefit for the company to offer to employees. Have your HR or benefits manager visit our website to learn more.

### **Who supplies the van?**

UTA supplies the van.

### **How many drivers do you need for each Vanpool? Do they need a special driver's license?**

It is required to have two drivers who are at least 21 years old. A special driver's license is not needed, however each driver's driving record must be submitted to UTA for approval from our insurance carrier. Drivers will have access to the van for limited personal use up to 50 monthly miles. There is a driving class that new Vanpool drivers should attend.

### **How many riders can we have in a Vanpool van?**

We have several sizes of vans, seating six to 15 riders.

### **Does everyone have to live in the same neighborhood?**

It is best if all Vanpool participants live and work near each other. Not necessarily live by each other if they are willing to meet.

### **Are there any other "jobs" required for the Vanpool, other than the drivers?**

Yes. You will need to assign someone as a bookkeeper to make certain your monthly ridership reports are recorded and submitted.

**Who pays for gas and insurance?**

UTA pays for the gas, insurance and maintenance. It is a part of the Vanpool fare you pay. The cost of Vanpool for you as a commuter depends on how far you commute each day. The more riders you have, the less each of you pays.

**Where do we keep the van overnight?**

One of the assigned drivers keeps the van overnight.

**What if someone drops out of the Vanpool?**

Since the overall cost of the van is split evenly among all Vanpool participants, the fare will be adjusted to reflect the lower number of participants. Of course, you can add more riders to reduce your cost. So, feel free to talk with your neighbors and co-workers about Vanpool and how they can save money. UTA has a search function for vanpool point of contact to look for commuters in the database. We do ask that those individuals leaving the Vanpool program give a 15-day notice to UTA and the other Vanpool participants.

**How much does it cost?**

Fares vary based on the distance the van is driven each month. Many companies will reimburse or even pay for much of the cost of the Vanpool van for employees.

**Are there any tax benefits to me, as an individual Vanpool rider?**

Some of your costs of using transit can be tax deductible, however you will want to check with your tax preparer or consult with Federal and State tax authorities to determine your particular tax deduction, if any. Your company may also be able to set up a pre-tax transit benefit, similar to a Health Savings account (i.e. NBS, Wage Works, etc.).

**Who makes the rules for Vanpools?**

Rules are determined by the Vanpool participants. This can include what happens if you are late for your pick-up, topics that can be discussed in the van, even who decides what radio stations you can listen to. We can offer suggestions on Vanpool rules.