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# VANPOOLING

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Vanpooling is an arrangement by a group of commuters to drive together in a van to their place (or places) of business. Full-size vans and minivans carry 7 to 15 passengers and therefore are the next step up from carpools. Vanpools usually consist of individuals who live near each other and are employees of the same company (or are employees of different companies located only a short distance apart) and have the same work hours.

## **Here's how it works:**

- In most cases, a group of commuters leases the van on a month-to-month basis (no long-term commitment). In some cases employers will lease or even purchase the van for their employees, and occasionally employees will use their own vehicles.
- The vanpool members develop their own structure. One member of the group serves as the driver and gets personal use of the van. The driver or another rider collects the monthly fares. The riders set their own fee schedule and establish their own rules.
- The vanpool leasing company usually covers maintenance and repairs, insurance, and even provides a backup van when needed.
- An Emergency Ride Home is guaranteed for all participants in the event they need to work late or otherwise miss the departure time.

*See 'Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about Vanpooling' for additional information.*

## **What are the Benefits?**

Vanpooling is an important option for employers who recruit employees from longer distances. The average cost for a 30 mile, drive-alone commute is \$250 per month. Your long distance employees can save as much as \$170 per month by joining or forming a vanpool.

Cascades West has experience managing the region's vanpools. In 2002, collaboration with Mid-Valley Rideshare and Lane Transit District's Commuter Solutions has streamlined resources and developed a new logo, website, and toll free number to augment 'Valley Vanpool'. These services stretch from Yamhill County to the Cottage Grove area, and will be centrally administrated through the Cascades West office.

## **Advantages for Employer**

- Easier recruitment and retention of employees who live in outlying towns and suburbs
- Reduces need for parking
- Employees arrive relaxed and ready to work
- Viable option for employees who don't drive

## **How Cascades West Can Help:**

Cascades West can help you set up company-sponsored or employee-sponsored vanpools, or find existing vanpool vacancies for your employees. We can:

- Design a vanpool program and assist in start up
- Identify potential vanpool riders and drivers
- Organize employee information meetings
- Serve as liaison with vanpool operators
- Help employees establish routes and policies for employee-operated vanpools
- Highlight route information and participating employers on regional website

## **Ways to Encourage Your Employees to Vanpool:**

There are numerous ways you can get the word out and encourage employee participation in a vanpooling program:

- Offer tax-free vanpooling benefits
- Subsidize the cost of vanpooling for employees through a voucher program
- Offer free parking for vanpools
- Charge a parking fee to discourage single-occupant vehicles
- Provide preferential parking (closer to the building) for vanpoolers
- Host a lunch-time vanpool formation party to let employees form or join vanpools



**1-888-VAN-GO-GO**

**www.ValleyVanPool.info**