

VANPOOLING



ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE AND COMFORT OF TRAVELING BY VANPOOL

MassRIDES can help you form a vanpool by locating and bringing together 7-15 people to share the ride and commuting costs to and from work. We'll help to map your locations, identify a meeting place for morning and afternoon pick-ups, and even assist with finding back-up drivers. Once your vanpool is on the road, **MassRIDES'** commitment to marketing and outreach at worksites will help you develop lists of potential new riders.

Make it easy on yourself

Convenience: Each vanpool sets its own route and schedule based on the needs of its members. In most cases, vanpoolers meet their rides at Park & ride lots.

Comfort: Relax or catch up on work during your daily commute. Vanpools offer comfortable seating, zoned heating and air conditioning, customized lighting, tinted windows, and more.

Reduce travel costs

Low monthly rates: Riding in a vanpool can drastically reduce your commuting costs. Vanpoolers share vehicle and gas costs, as well as tolls and parking. Based on figures provided by the American Automobile Association, driving alone 50 miles each way to work can cost over \$9,000 a year. The same trip in a 14-passenger vanpool can cost as little as \$1,900 annually, although the exact monthly cost of your vanpool will vary depending on your choice of vehicle and length of your commute.

- Each passenger makes one monthly payment to cover the cost of the vehicle, insurance, maintenance, fuel, and applicable sales tax. Vanpoolers may be eligible for reserved and discounted parking, along with discounts on personal car insurance.
- New vanpool riders may qualify for financial incentives, reducing travel costs even further.

Choose to meet your needs

Choices: **MassRIDES'** Vanpool Alliance brings you a choice of vehicles, vendors, and pricing. Select among companies with a variety of vehicle sizes, vehicle types, insurance, and maintenance policies to find the one that best meets your needs.



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Getting Your Vanpool Started

How do I get a ride on a vanpool?

Register with **MassRIDES** and you will receive a listing of vanpools that match your daily commute. You can call the vanpool driver, or call **MassRIDES** to get in touch with the group.

Where can I meet my vanpool in the morning?

Each vanpool group selects several pick-up points, based on where the passengers live. Park & ride lots along major highways are popular and safe locations for vanpoolers to meet. Your group also decides convenient drop-off points near your worksite.

How much does it cost?

Vanpoolers pay a monthly fee that covers the vehicle lease, maintenance, insurance, gas, parking and tolls. The price varies according to the vanpool group's size and the length of your commute. For example, a 50-mile daily round-trip costs about \$130 per month; a 100-mile daily round-trip costs about \$160.

Who drives the van?

The driver is a commuter who volunteers to drive the vanpool daily, often in exchange for a free commute. Vanpool drivers must possess a valid driver's license, have at least five years of driving experience, and meet age requirements. In addition, drivers submit their driving records for review before being approved as a vanpool driver.

Do I have to make a long-term commitment to a vanpool?

Vanpooling requires only a 30-day commitment. Passengers must give a month's notice to the driver when they plan to leave the van. Likewise, the vehicle lease offers a 30-day cancellation provision, so there is no long-term financial commitment by the driver or the group.

What happens when the van needs maintenance?

Ongoing maintenance is included in your monthly fee. When the van is due for maintenance, just contact your vendor to make arrangements.

How can we get more riders for our vanpool?

MassRIDES is committed to aggressive rider recruiting through its computerized ridematching system, as well as by reaching out to commuters at worksites. All passengers can participate in recruiting new riders by distributing flyers and displaying posters at work and in their communities.

Do vanpools qualify for other special benefits?

Vanpools save time and money from priority treatment in a number of ways. Boston-bound vanpool groups may qualify for discounted and reserved parking, along with convenient reserved locations for picking up and dropping off their riders throughout the city. Vanpools use the Commonwealth's carpool lanes to bypass congestion. Groups traveling the MassPike save on tolls, paying only \$75 per year for the Pike's carpool pass for unlimited travel. Vanpool passengers may also qualify for a 10% discount on the personal property damage and collision portions of their personal automobile insurance when they submit an annual **MassRIDES** vanpool certification to their insurance agent.



For more information, contact the MassRIDES Vanpool Coordinator at 1.888.4COMMUTE