

FAQs: Vanpool

Q: What is a vanpool?

A: A vanpool is like a carpool except it holds more people, typically a group of seven to 15 people who commute to and from work together in a van. The van itself is leased and paid for by the riders, with the primary driver being the leaseholder. Typically the lease is a month-to-month, unless you want it for longer at a reduced rate.

Q: Does it pick me up at my house?

A: No, vanpoolers usually meet at a central location that suits everyone.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: Typically vanpools cost between \$60–\$90/month per person plus gas. The fare you pay reserves your seat for the entire month.*

Q: Is it cheaper than taking my car?

A: The more miles you drive the more savings you'll get by vanpooling. Here's a quick idea of the estimated savings by vanpooling versus driving alone:

- 20 miles daily round trip could save approximately \$78 / month or \$936 / year
- 30 miles daily round trip could save approximately \$189/month or \$2,263 / year
- 40 miles daily round trip could save approximately \$278/month or \$3,337/year
- 50 miles daily round trip could save approximately \$368/month or \$4,416/year
- 90 miles daily round trip could save approximately \$725/month or \$8,707/year

Q: Who owns the van?

A: Most vans are leased by individual commuters. Vans leased through our referred vendors Enterprise and VPSI. They have competitive pricing that includes a complete service package, vehicle registration, insurance and maintenance.

Q: What is the SANDAG subsidy and am I eligible? Is there any paperwork required?

A: SANDAG, through the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District, provides a \$400 subsidy per month for vanpools that have a minimum of 80% occupancy, have an origin or

destination within San Diego County and fill out and sign the vanpool application. Vanpoolers are required to log their vanpool trips each month on line using TripTracker, including a list of all your vanpool riders, mileage reports, and information about your commute such as origin and destination details.

Q: When does the next vanpool start?

A: Anytime you want—the application process takes between 24–48 hours. Contact the Vanpool vendors for more information.

Q: What do I need to get started?

A: You or another individual needs to volunteer to be the driver and to sign the vanpool lease agreement.

- Credit check (Required for leaseholder only)
- DMV Medical (Required for primary and all alternate drivers)
- DMV driving record (Required for primary and all alternate drivers)
- Find other vanpoolers to join you that share a similar commute pattern and working hours. The number of fellow vanpoolers you have to find depends on the capacity of the van you want to lease to meet the minimum 80% requirements for the \$400 subsidy. For example:
 - 7-seater: Find 5 other riders plus yourself
 - 10-seater: Find 7 other riders plus yourself
 - 15-seater: Find 12 other riders plus yourself
- Agree with other riders on fixed arrival and departure times from a centrally located meeting place.

Q: Is a special driver's license required?

A: No, drivers and back-up drivers of vanpools need only a regular class C driver's license.

Q: Who does the driving?

A: It depends on how your van pool is set up. In some vans, everyone takes turns driving. Mostly though, two to three riders volunteer to share the driving or step-in, just in case.

Q: How do I find other riders?

A: Through RideLink's ridesharing database you will be matched to either others at your workplace that live nearby; or with others in the San Diego county that share your commute patterns, i.e. hours and locations.

Q: What about insurance?

A: The vanpool vendors provide \$1,000,000, \$500,000 per occurrence automobile liability insurance to protect authorized drivers with \$0.00 deductible.

Q: Who is responsible for maintaining and servicing the van?

A: The vanpool company provides this service, usually free of charge about every 6,000 miles—seamlessly for you while you are at work. Also, in the unlikely event the van breaks down, the vanpool vendors provide free 24 hour roadside assistance that will bring a replacement van to you so you can quickly resume your commute.

Q: Is eating or smoking permitted in the van?

A: The vanpool participants collaborate on the rules of the vanpool on everything from eating and smoking, to waiting times, perfumes and choice of radio stations, etc.

Q: Can I use the van for personal use?

A: Yes. The vanpool vendors give each van extra miles each year in addition to the allotted miles per year. The extra miles can be used for small errands and side trips or even a longer family vacation, for example. Any excess miles are charged on a per mile basis. Each monthly statement includes a summary of the miles used and your balance.

Q: What happens when I am absent from the vanpool due to illness, being late or on vacation?

A: If you are late for your vanpool or sick, call the driver or a passenger ahead of time. When you go on vacation, make arrangements with your vanpool driver or vanpool coordinator in advance.

Q: If I vanpool to get to work, will I be stranded? What if there is an emergency or I have unscheduled overtime?

A: Through SANDAG's Guaranteed Ride Home program, you can get a taxi or rental car to your home if you have a personal or family illness, unscheduled overtime (supervisor's approval required), or you are stranded because your carpool or vanpool driver left. The service can be used up to three times per year by enrolled participants, with only a \$3 co-pay. More info on visit www.511sd.com and click on Guaranteed Ride Home.

Q: What are the other benefits of vanpooling?

A: There are many personal benefits to vanpooling, as well as regional ones too. For example, you put fewer miles on your

personal vehicle, split the cost of commuting to work, share the driving, use the carpool lanes to minimize freeway congestion, catch up on reading, relaxing or Sudoku, etc. Regionally, less cars on the road means less traffic and emissions, which is good for San Diego and the environment.

If you have any questions, please contact the iCommute staff. We're happy to help!

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Vanpool vendors

Enterprise (800) VAN 4 WORK
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For more information

<http://www.icommutesd.com/WorkFromHome.aspx>

About iCommute

iCommute is your gateway to commute options in the San Diego region. iCommute is managed by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) as part of the regional 511 transportation information program. The goal of the iCommute program is to manage and reduce traffic congestion during peaktimes, as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental pollutants that result from commuters driving to work each day alone. The staff at iCommute achieves this goal by offering assistance and tools to commuters and employers.

iCommute assists commuters by providing free carpool and ride matching services, a subsidized vanpool program, transit solutions, the regional bicycle program, Guaranteed Ride Home service, SchoolPool carpooling programs for parents, and information about teleworking. iCommute also provides free assistance to local businesses, helping them develop and implement customized employee commuter benefit programs that lower costs, increase productivity, and help the environment.

Contact Us

For more information, dial 511 toll-free from any phone and ask for iCommute when prompted, or e-mail iCommute@sandag.org