

# CARPOOLING

## Description

Carpooling programs are designed to promote ridesharing by identifying riders with similar origins and destinations. Using a database of interested riders, employers, or regional agencies can promote this for an entire region.

Employers can encourage participation through incentives like discounted/favorable parking, use of managed lanes, flexible work schedules, and guaranteed ride home programs. Guaranteed ride home programs offer members a free and reliable ride home during an emergency or unexpected schedule change, incentivizing them to participate in other commute options.

Transportation agencies can develop infrastructure to support carpooling with high-occupancy vehicle lanes, managed lanes, discounted tolls for registered carpools, and support for area-wide ridesharing programs.

## Target Market

- Congested corridors during peak hours.
- Downtown or other activity centers with limited parking or paid parking.

Ridesharing works well for travel patterns without transit service or adequate parking. This service is best paired with managed lanes that offer a price savings for carpools and in areas with park-and-ride lots.

## How Will This Help?

- Reduce congestion by eliminating cars from the road.
- Lower costs for user (fuel and maintenance), employers (parking), and transportation agencies (roadway capacity).
- Decrease auto emissions by removing cars from the road and allowing more efficient speeds.



University of Texas Parking and Transportation Services

<b>Cost:</b>	●○○○○
<b>Time:</b>	Short
<b>Impact:</b>	Regional
<b>Who:</b>	City/Private
<b>Hurdles:</b>	Personal Habits

## Success Stories

- Carpooling increased in the **Dallas** area following introduction of a system of five high-occupancy vehicle lanes. Average automobile occupancy soon increased by 8 to 12 percent, reducing single-occupancy trips.
- **Bellevue City Hall** in Washington State decreased its vehicle trip rate by 30 percent across 650 employees with a ridesharing program supported by discounted carpool parking and subsidized vanpooling.

## Implementation Issues

Ridesharing programs are easily implemented by both employers and the city or region but require changes in personal driving habits. Public agencies can encourage and facilitate these programs by providing incentives, including a guaranteed ride home program, marketing, and parking incentives.