

REGIONAL VANPOOL

Frequently Asked Questions

1.800.998.RIDE (7433) TBARTA.com

▶ WHAT IS A VANPOOL?

A vanpool is a group of 5 to 15 commuters who voluntarily participate in a ridesharing arrangement to and from work. TBARTA Regional Vanpool provides a variety of vehicles to choose from, ranging from 5 passenger Chevy Traverses to full-size 15 passenger vans.

▶ WHY SHOULD I VANPOOL?

Vanpooling is one of the most economical means of transportation available in the United States. It costs much less than driving alone to and from work, it reduces the number of cars on our roadways, it saves thousands of gallons of fuel and drastically reduces air pollution on an annual basis. For the individual commuter, it also saves wear and tear on their personal car and reduces the stress associated with a long, hectic commute.

▶ WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

TBARTA Vanpool is a program offered by the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) to any work commuter traveling to, from or within Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando or Citrus Counties. It's a great choice for riders who maintain a consistent work schedule and live 15 or more miles away from work.

▶ HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The monthly cost is determined by the total commuting miles that the van will travel during the month. The vanpool group shares the cost of the monthly rate plus sales tax (where applicable), fuel, tools and any other commute related expenses that may be incurred, minus a \$400 per month subsidy provided by TBARTA. For 7-Passenger vehicles, the total cost can be as low as \$100 per month, and for 15-passenger vehicles, \$50 per month. Participants save thousands of dollars per year over driving alone.

▶ WHO DRIVES THE VEHICLE?

The Primary Driver is one of the members of the commuting group and is the primary point of contact for the vanpool. He/she decides to have the vehicle serviced as required and maintains a roster of potential riders who are contacted when space comes available. Most groups will also need two to three authorized Alternate Drivers to rotate driving responsibilities among themselves and the Primary Driver. The volunteer drivers must not receive any compensation and driving must be incidental to their commute.

▶ HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Applications and qualifications are available online at TBARTA.com, or by calling TBARTA at **1-800-998-RIDE**. Once registered, you can find other commuters that match your profile. TBARTA will also provide help in recruiting members and with a route that works for everyone on request.

▶ WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

TBARTA provides the **Emergency Ride Home (ERH) Program** to help get you home in the event of illness or family emergency while at work or having to work late unexpectedly. The ERH Program will provide you with up to four (4) free taxi rides home from work per year. Certain restrictions apply so please contact TBARTA at **1-800-998-RIDE** to learn more about ERH.

Tax Advantages to Vanpooling: The Internal Revenue Code (IRC), Section 132 (f) enables most employers to provide a commute benefit to employees that is applied toward the cost of deductible as a business expense to the employer. To get more information about this IRS provision, contact TBARTA at **1-800-998-RIDE**.