



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SHARING A RIDE TO WORK WITH SOMEONE

Question: What is a carpool?

Answer: More than one person sharing a ride to/from work at least one day a week.

Question: How does a carpool work?

Answer: You find at least one other commuter that shares a similar route and work hours. Take turns driving your own cars or reimburse one person for driving each day. You can carpool a few days a week or every day; you and your carpool partners decide. The carpool driver picks up riders at their homes or at a pre-determined location. When the driving is rotated equally, no money changes hands. You only pay for gas and parking (if applicable) the day you drive.

Question: What benefits do I gain by carpooling?

Answer: You save money on gas and reduce the overall operating costs of your vehicle. In 2008, AAA estimated that it costs about 17 cents a mile to operate a vehicle. For four wheel drive sport utility vehicles (SUV), that cost rises to 23.5 cents a mile. The 2008 daily average ownership costs for a vehicle is \$15.28, according to AAA. For four wheel drive SUV's, daily ownership costs are estimated at \$18.99. The more carpoolers in your group, the more you save. Sharing a ride with just one other person cuts your daily commute costs in half.

Additionally, sharing a ride with others also reduces greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), which directly contribute to air pollution and climate change.

Question: How do I start a carpool?

Answer: Try to find someone in your company who lives in close proximity to you and works similar hours and see if they're interested in sharing a ride. If your company has an intranet that allows you to post buy/sell/wanted messages, you could post a ride/rider wanted message. Call the North Florida TPO at 904.306.7500 and we'll send you a complimentary Rider Wanted sign that you can make copies of and post in break rooms or at neighboring work sites.

You can also register in our online database at www.cooltopool.com and request a match list to see if anyone else in the database works in the same area as you. Due to privacy concerns, match lists are distributed with names, the phone number you choose to provide and work addresses only. All personal information such as home address is confidential and is only used by the North Florida TPO Commuter Services Program.

Another option is to submit a request to post a message on our commuter message board, located on the www.cooltopool.com website. Submit your proposed message to our Commuter Services Manager via email. The address is edejesus@northfloridatpo.com.

Question: Why should I register in your online database if I'm already carpooling with someone?

Answer: If you live and work in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns County and carpool with someone three days a week (you can include Saturday and Sunday) you can apply to enroll in our Emergency Ride Home (ERH) program, which is funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). If an emergency arises and you need to leave work before your carpool does you'll get a free taxi ride home or to your vehicle (a maximum of four rides a year is allowed). You're also eligible for an ERH if you have to stay at work later than your carpool partners due to unforeseen circumstances. You must register in our database to apply for the ERH program.

Question: I'd like to register in your database but am concerned that others will have access to my personal information, such as home phone number and address. What steps do you take to protect my privacy?

Answer: Match lists are distributed with the phone number you choose to provide and work address only. All personal information such as home address is confidential and is only used by the North Florida TPO.