



the way to **go!**

*RideOn*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2009  
Vanpool Newsletter

## Vanpool Facts . . . Did you know?

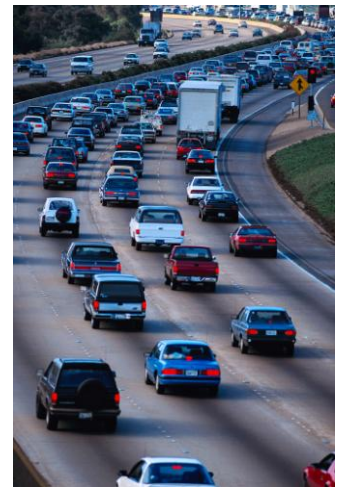
- The number of vanpool vans in the active fleet today is 321 (292 on the road, 28 spares & one ramp-accessible van).
- Of the 150 employers Pierce Transit vanpools serve, The Boeing Company Renton site has the most Pierce Transit vans, followed by the City of Tacoma.
- Lengthiest daily commute is 135 roundtrip miles.
- Approximately 2,500 volunteer participants commute in a Pierce Transit vanpool.
- Overall average ridership growth for the year was 7.9%
- Total vanpool miles driven were 4,343,719.
- We have had no serious injuries in our history of operation (since 1986).
- 44% of vanpool accidents were at fault and 79% of at fault accidents were due to volunteer drivers colliding with **fixed** objects.
- 82% of vandalisms occurred in locations other than homes (grocery stores, Park and Ride lots, and worksites).

## Tacoma Traffic Nightmares

Please note that the on and off ramps connecting Sprague Avenue and eastbound SR16 are closed. Getting from the Tacoma Narrows to Interstate 5 will take a lot longer as they build a new SR16 Nalley Valley viaduct.

WSDOT plans to help manage traffic flow on eastbound SR16 during construction with ramp meters at Jackson, Pearl, Orchard, Center and Union. This project will take about two years to complete. For more info, go to [http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/PierceCountyHOV/SR16\\_WBNalleyValley/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/PierceCountyHOV/SR16_WBNalleyValley/)

The 2009 construction season is underway meaning more traffic slowdowns this summer and fall. To help keep track of road construction, check out the weekly [construction update report](#) or go to [www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov).



## National Sleep Awareness Week

This week we recognize National Sleep Awareness. Go to <http://www.sleepfoundation.org> for tips to help you get a better night's sleep to wake up refreshed and ready to face the day!

March 8-21,  
2009

CHANGE IT UP AND  
WIN \$2,500

Enter to win by completing the Wheel Options drawing  
form online at [www.wheeloptions.org](http://www.wheeloptions.org)

**wheel  
options**  
your trip, your way.

February 16 - March 21, 2009

RIDEMATCH PROMOTION

Click [here](#) for more  
information



## Vanpool Policies at your Fingertips

Every van is equipped with a Vanpool Participant Manual. However, it is now available online too!

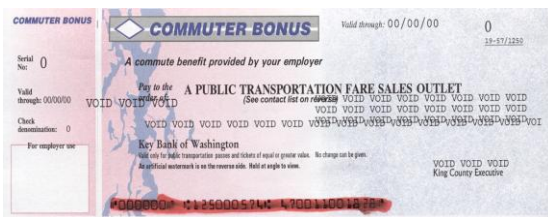


Refer to your [Vanpool Manual](#) online. Guidelines for an  
enjoyable, rewarding vanpool experience in one handy place.

## You can "Vouch" for that

Do you receive a paper voucher, such as a Commuter Bonus Voucher or TranBen Voucher, from your employer as part of your vanpool payment? If so, please print your name and company on the front or back of the voucher, either in the space provided for that purpose or somewhere that does not interfere with our endorsement of the check. This ensures we properly apply vouchers to eligible individuals.

Occasionally, new vouchers are introduced for payment. Volunteer bookkeepers, please contact your vanpool coordinator to verify acceptance of any new or different vouchers.



Sample vouchers that we accept.

## Where Oh Where can I Fuel & Wash the Van?



We thought it would be helpful to provide you with a report that lists locations that accept the Voyager card when you need to fuel and/or wash your van. Remember, we allow up to \$20 per month towards washing the van for non-subsidized vanpool groups. <https://www.fleetcommanderonline.com/app/public/merchantLocator.do>



## 2008: A Year of Growth and Concern

Pierce Transit responded to the public's needs in times of high gas prices, record snow and lagging economy. Go to <http://www.piercetransit.org/pdfs/ReportToCommunity2.pdf> for the complete report.



## Saving Vanpool Maintenance \$\$

We allow cash purchases on the Voyager card for items that you need for the van, i.e. windshield wiper fluid, De-Icer, and headlight bulbs. However, avoid labor charges such as a bulb change, by scheduling an appointment with Pierce Transit for any simple replacement of items you are unable to do on your own. The general rule of thumb is: if it's something we would normally fix, Please contact us to arrange for the repair.

## Service with a Smile



Help us to better serve you. If you need to visit your Pierce Transit vanpool coordinator in person, please make an appointment with her ahead of time. This ensures she will be available when you arrive. If you arrive without a pre-scheduled appointment, your vanpool coordinator may not be available.

Our contact information is listed in every newsletter for your convenience.

## What do riders *really* think of vanpool?

*"I really enjoy the company I share the ride with. It's a lot of fun!"*

*"I have saved money and wear/tear on my vehicle as well as stress free commute!"*

For more, see our [2008 Vanpool Survey Report!](#)



## Time to Spring Ahead

Daylight Saving time is a system of setting clocks ahead so that both sunrise and sunset occur at a later hour, producing an additional period of daylight in the evening.

**2009: Spring Ahead - Sunday, March 8**  
**Fall Back - Sunday, November 1**

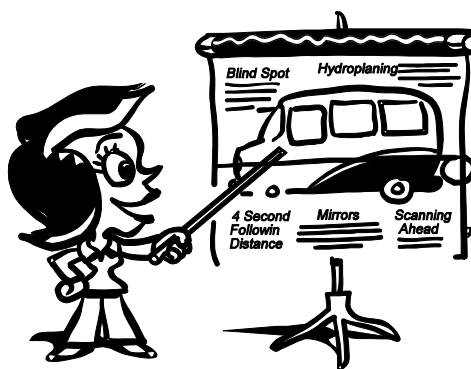


## Upcoming Defensive Driving Orientation and Bookkeeping Classes

March 21	Saturday	8 a.m. – Noon
April 1	Wednesday	4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
April 18	Saturday	8 a.m. – Noon
May 6	Wednesday	4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Defensive Driving/Orientation classes are listed above. Each class must have a minimum of five Pierce Transit volunteer applicants registered. We generally hold Bookkeeper classes from 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. on these Wednesdays and from Noon – 1 p.m. on these Saturdays.

**We must receive all applications at least one week prior to the date of the class in order to pre-approve and schedule you for that training.**



*An optional online vanpool defensive driving refresher course sponsored by the Washington State Transit Insurance Pool (WSTIP) is available to all active volunteer vanpool drivers. Please contact your Pierce Transit Vanpool Coordinator if you are interested.*

## Vanpool Operations Staff

### Fleet Supervision

Vanpool Fleet (Maintenance) 253.905.5306

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Jody Guy 253.983.3421  
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[hhunter@piercetransit.org](mailto:hhunter@piercetransit.org)

Kim Pontsler 253.983.2724  
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### Rideshare Administrative Staff

Tracy Klein 253.983.3375  
[tklein@piercetransit.org](mailto:tklein@piercetransit.org)

### Other Contact Information

**Vanpool Emergency (24/7) 253.381.3762**

Vanpool Direct Line (7:30am-5pm) 253.983.3377

Pierce Transit fax 253.984.8227

Pierce Transit toll-free 800.562.8109

TDD/Customer Service 253.582.7951

Pierce Transit Web site [Piercetransit.org](http://Piercetransit.org)

Rideshare hotline toll-free 888.814.1300

Online Ridematch [RideshareOnline.com](http://RideshareOnline.com)

**Heidi Hunter and Kim Pontsler, Editors:** We distribute our newsletter bi-monthly with several issues retained on our web site at [piercetransit.org](http://piercetransit.org). Thanks for article suggestions and letters to the editor.