

VantagePoint

JULY - AUGUST 2010



Voyager Card News

Watch your mail the week of July 12th.

We will mail the new Voyager cards in a letter sized Pierce Transit envelope with a bright neon colored ATTN sticker. Place the new card in the van. Please cut and dispose of the old card. If you have a spare van when you receive the new card, please hold the card until you pick up your regular assigned van. We will place new Voyager cards in all the spare vans.

Also, please enter your Personal ID Number (PIN #) carefully when purchasing fuel. If you incorrectly enter your PIN #, Voyager will deactivate the card after three incorrect attempts. Other drivers will be unable to use the card as well. If your PIN does not work, contact us and we will notify Voyager.

Losing riders?

Let us help you find more riders.

Have you had several participants leave the van? Are you having trouble finding new folks to join? Do you wonder if you can keep your group commuting with fewer participants? We want to keep you on the road! Please contact your vanpool coordinator and let us help you save your group.



Share the ride. WIN A TRIP!

Sharing a ride is brilliant and simple.

Sharing a ride is good for your wallet, your car, and the environment. Carpool or vanpool at least 2 days/week between August 9th and September 19th and you could win a luxury getaway or an Apple iPad! There's also weekly drawings for \$50 gift cards. Eligibility requirements and entry form coming soon to RideshareOnline.com. All trips must be logged at RideshareOnline.com. Note: If you work in Pierce County you must continue to log your trips at PierceTrips.com to be eligible for Pierce County prizes.



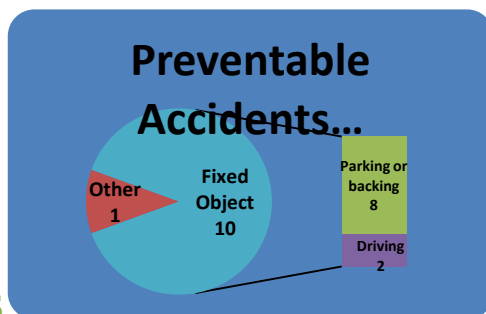
Vantage Point is a publication of Pierce Transit.

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DRIVER'S DIGEST

Preventable Accidents



Avoid fixed objects.

Pierce Transit volunteer vanpool drivers have an excellent safety record: In our 24-year history, we have had NO serious injury accidents. And in 2009, we had only 1.22 accidents per 100,000 miles – quite an accomplishment considering our vans were driven nearly 4.5 million miles last year! We want to do even better. Although we've never had a serious injury accident, we tend to have a number of smaller **preventable** accidents, meaning the driver could have avoided it.

Know your clearances. Not sure if the van will fit? Stop, get out, and check. Or enlist the help of a spotter. Please refer to the owner's manual in the van for dimensions. Van sizes vary based on year and manufacturer.

Be alert to hazards. Before you take control of 2000+ pounds of metal, walk around your van and ensure the surrounding area is clear of hazards. Some hazards may not have been there when you parked the van. When preparing to park, scan for hazards, such as cross traffic, narrow parking stalls, pedestrians, posts, shrubbery, stumps, etc.

Avoid distractions. Remember, NO cell phone use or talking on any other wireless device while operating the van!

Reasons to keep Vanpooling

Do you know the cost of owning a car?

According to AAA, the average cost to own and operate your personal vehicle is 73.9 cents a mile, or a whopping \$7,393 annual average. And that's if you drive your car only 10k miles annually – most of us rack up about 15k miles a year!

Here are the main expenses that gouge a \$7,400-size hole in our wallets:

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| \$ 678 | License, registration and taxes |
| \$1,207 | Fuel |
| \$2,772 | Depreciation |
| \$ 546 | Maintenance and repair |
| \$1,167 | Insurance |
| \$ 931 | Finance charges |

Isn't it great to save wear and tear on your vehicle and wallet!? Not to mention the fact that vanpooling helps save the environment and reduces our dependence on oil.



In the first quarter of 2010, PT volunteer vanpool drivers were involved in 16 accidents, 11 of which were preventable. Now check this out . . . Ten out of 11 (91%) of preventable accidents involved the volunteer driver hitting fixed (nonmoving) objects such as parked vehicles, posts or poles, and clearance bars.



GAS LINKS

- [Daily Gas Prices](#)
- [Fuel Cost Calculator:](#)
- [Gas Saving Tips](#)



Keeping You in the Know

Changes are ahead for Pierce Transit.

Pierce Transit recently completed eight public meetings and a public hearing to gather comments on two draft alternatives. Here's the link for the two draft alternatives <http://pttomorrow.org/compare.aspx>. At the June 14 Public Hearing, more than 150 people filled a meeting room at Pierce Transit's training center in Lakewood. They delivered their comments on the two agency proposals. One would cut annual service hours by more than 40 percent. The second would maintain much of the existing service hours and . . . It would require voter approval of a 0.3 percent sales tax increase. The message heard was "Don't cut bus service. Add as much as you can. And if a sales tax increase is needed to pay for it, then do that, too." Pierce Transit's Board of Commissioners is scheduled to make a decision on the alternatives at their July 12 meeting.



*You can
make a difference!*

Adopt A Stop

Pierce Transit's Bus Stop ADOPT A STOP Program

We have more than 3,000 bus stops and shelters throughout Pierce County. Each one is part of a community. By volunteering as an Adoptee for the **Adopt A Stop** program you can make a difference in your community.

It's easy to get started:

- 1) Choose a bus stop.
- 2) Contact us at adoptastop@piercetransit.org.
- 3) Get your supplies from Pierce Transit.
- 4) Report your activities once a month.

After your stop is adopted, your name will appear on a sign which will be posted at that stop. You may also receive recognition in one or more of our publications. Recycling is encouraged, and any profit from the sale of recyclable items is yours to keep!

Following are more details:

[Adopt A Stop Program Overview](#), [Expectations & Safety Tips](#), [Agreement to Adopt A Stop](#).



2010 Updates



VANPOOL

24/7 Emergency
253.381.3762

Direct Line
253.983.3377
7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fleet Maintenance
235.905.5306
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Vanpool Fax
253.984.8227

Vanpool@piercettransit.org

RIDESHARE

1.888.814.1300

RideshareOnline.com

PIERCE TRANSIT

Customer Services
253.581.8000

Toll Free
1.800.562.8109

TDD Customer Services
253.582.7951

piercettransit.org

Volunteer Bookkeeper Policy Changes

Effective immediately, a **volunteer bookkeeper must be an active participant on his/her vanpool**. A volunteer bookkeeper who rides regularly is in a good position to keep track of ridership and collection of fares.

Expired Voucher Reminders

Watch expiration dates.

Please double-check that your vouchers (Commuter Check, TranBen, TransitChek, WageWorks) are not expired. We cannot accept any vouchers past their expiration date. Remember to complete information requested on the vouchers. Some vouchers are made payable to a “named” transit agency as opposed to a Public Transportation Fare sales outlet. For these type vouchers, ensure the named agency is Pierce Transit.

Hot Summer Nights

Keep an eye on your transponders and cards.

We don't want you to have melted cards or transponders. With warmer weather (we hope anyway!) comes gooey melting adhesive. If your transponder and/or shield is not remaining in place, let us know. Additionally, please move the Voyager card and Vanpool Gate Pass from the visor to the console area to keep them operational during a heat wave.

Want to Form a Vanpool?

Now's the time to apply!

We do not have a wait list for new vanpool formations at this time. If you or someone you know is interested in forming a new vanpool group – now's the time! The process is painless and easy with no long waiting periods. Contact Kim Pontsler or Heidi Hunter. We'd love to help you get started!

Driving less = Cleaner air

Increase vehicle life and your life!

Reducing the time spent in your vehicle is one of the most important actions you can take to protect air quality. Nearly 70% of our regions' air pollution comes from motor vehicle emissions and is the largest source of air pollution in our region. Additionally, reducing your idling can help reduce oil and oil filter deterioration and lessens the life of your engine. You will benefit with overall fuel savings, longer engine life, improved air quality, and less noise just by continuing to vanpool and reduce your driving in your personal vehicle! Another tip: Fuel in early morning or on cool evenings!