

Vantage Point

JULY-AUGUST 2011

KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW

Pierce Transit agency updates

The Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners directed staff to implement a 35% reduction in service to address the agency's budget shortfall. Part of the reductions includes elimination of Special Event service, such as the Taste of Tacoma, July 4th Freedom Fair, and Puyallup Fair. For all route and service information focusing on efficiencies and ridership, see details in the October Service Reduction Pamphlet http://www.piercetransit.org/pdfs/printFriendly_OctReduction.pdf

At the June 13 Public Hearing, the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners adopted the October Service Reduction, focusing on efficiency and ridership with minor modifications. The Board also directed staff to keep some transit connection to Northeast Tacoma. Over 140 individuals attended the hearing with nearly 100 providing public comment. In total over 350 comments and testimony were recorded for this plan.

What does all this mean for Vanpool? At this time, there will be no reductions in the vanpool fleet. We will continue to provide you with our outstanding customer service, as always.



A LOOK INTO WA STATE'S VANPOOL FUTURE

The Washington State Department of Transportation continues its commitment to vanpooling. For the 2011-2013 biennium, \$6 million of The State's multimodal transportation account is budgeted for the Vanpool Investment Program (VIP). VIP grant funds are for public transit agencies to add vanpools or replace vans statewide, and offer incentives for employers to increase employee vanpool use.

At this time, the grant application and procedures are being developed. State officials are meeting with transit agency executives to discuss and obtain their input into the application process. More to come...



Vantage Point is a publication of Pierce Transit.

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UPCOMING CAMPAIGNS



is a yearlong campaign for employees commuting to an employment site located in Pierce County.

This ongoing campaign gives you chances to win each quarter, just for choosing alternatives to driving alone to work you could win a \$25 gift card, or up to \$250 gift card!

How about relaxing to and from work by letting someone else do the driving? Wouldn't it be relaxing to walk, bike, ride the bus or train to work, ride in a carpool or vanpool, work from home (telework) or even work a compressed workweek schedule? To get started, register as a participant and track your trips on the [Pierce Trips Online Commute Calendar](#).

Every workday you choose one of these relaxing alternatives gets you closer to a chance to win a relaxing prize. As your days add up, you earn more chances to win great quarterly prizes!

For more information go to www.piercetrips.com.

Calling All Vanpoolers:

Sign Up at RideshareOnline.com and win a Trip! Sharing the ride is good for your wallet, your car and the environment. Carpool or vanpool at least two days/week between August 15 and September 18 and you could win a luxury getaway or an Apple iPad2! To be eligible, log your trips at RideshareOnline.com. In addition, there are weekly drawings for \$50 gift cards. Visit RideshareOnline.com for prize details.



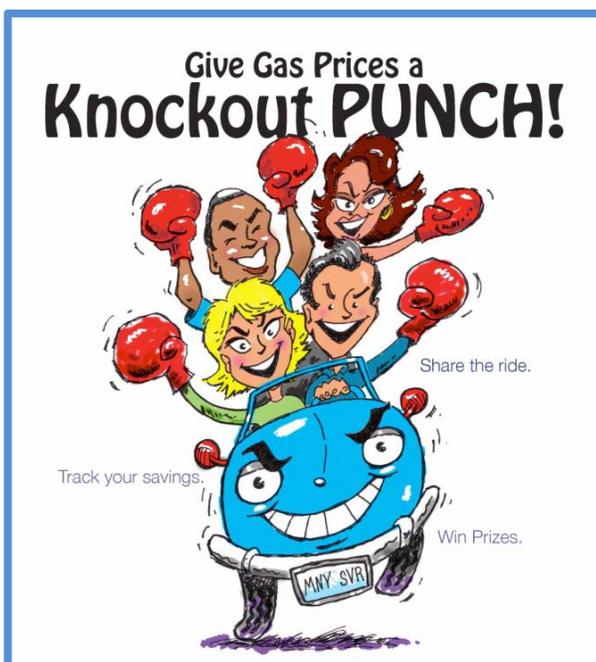
RideshareOnline.com Powered by brilliant commuters. Like you.

RideshareOnline.com

Track your positive impact and win!

[Trip Calendar](#) is open to all as a RideshareOnline.com tool to measure your alternative commute activities and your financial and environment savings. Simply record your commute trips on a daily or weekly basis. Trip Calendar is engaging and enlightening because you can watch the numbers—and your savings—add up.

When you use Trip Calendar on a routine basis, you may be eligible to win valuable prizes through incentive programs such as monthly drawings when available. [Sign Up](#) or [Log In](#) to RideshareOnline.com to see what is available in your local area.



News and Views

SUMMER TRAVEL TIPS

Plan ahead for personal travel

Plan itineraries and arrange accommodations well in advance. Reservations for hotels, restaurants and rental cars get booked quickly during peak travel times. Your travel agent can help you get the lowest rate and make sure your rental car has room for your family, luggage and whatever souvenirs you bring home.

Reduce your vehicle's load. To save gas, eliminate excess cargo, such as extra tires, equipment, and bike or ski racks. For every 200 pounds of extra weight in a vehicle, fuel mileage is reduced by approximately one mile per gallon.

Get a tune up. Before any long-distance drive, check your oil, brakes, fluids and tire pressure. The slightest deficiency in air pressure significantly reduces your car's gas mileage. On the flip side, too much air can result in a flat.

Get an early start to avoid holiday weekend gridlock. Traveling during peak commute times can increase your stress levels and time spent sitting in traffic. Early morning hours tend to have less traffic. The worst times to travel are after meals when you are more likely to be relaxed and sleepy with a full belly. Make sure that all drivers are thoroughly rested prior to hitting the road.



MOVE OVER LAW

Know the law and avoid a fine

The original Move Over Law was passed in 2007. In 2010, legislation amended the old law to include an "Emergency Zone."

The Move Over Law requires motorists to move over or reduce speed for stopped emergency or assistance vehicles. Failure to move over or slow down in an Emergency Zone can result in a fine of \$248.00. Motorists could be charged with Reckless Endangerment if driving in a manner as to endanger any emergency worker.

See wsp.wa.gov/traveler/docs/laws/emergency_zone_brochure.pdf for amended details.



TALKING, TEXTING, SURFING

A disaster in the making

A study was conducted recently showing that one in five smart-phone users surf the web while driving. Most respondents said they use the web while driving, while some do so at a stoplight or if stopped in heavy traffic. Others admitted they surf the web while driving alone or on long interstate drives. It's amazing we don't have more accidents on our congested freeways. For the entire article, go to alertdriving.com/home/fleet-alert-magazine/north-america/study-1-5-smart-phone-drivers-use-internet



Updates & Reminders



VANPOOL

24/7 Emergency
253.381.3762

Direct Line
253.983.3377
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Fleet Supervision
253.905.5306
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Vanpool Fax
253.984.8227

Vanpool@piercetransit.org

RIDESHARE

1.888.814.1300
RideshareOnline.com

PIERCE TRANSIT

Customer Services
253.581.8000

Toll Free
1.800.562.8109

TDD Customer Service
253.582.7951

Piercetransit.org

PAYING YOUR VANPOOL FARE

Make checks payable to Pierce Transit

If you pay your monthly vanpool fare by check, please make the check payable to **Pierce Transit**. Remember, fares are due to the bookkeeper before the first of each month.

VAN CLEANING

Keep the vans clean

Vanpoolers are responsible for keeping all our vans clean. This means both the regularly assigned commuter van and any spare vans assigned to you. All vanpoolers are responsible to keep their area clean by picking up trash and cleaning any spills. Dirty vans hold up the maintenance cycle for the entire fleet as Vanpool staff levels do not allow us to spend unreasonable amounts of time cleaning vans. Also remember to fuel up the spare van before you return it. Thanks!

Examples of vans that do not meet cleanliness criteria



VANPOOL RIDERSHIP REPORTS

Let's fill those vans!

It is our goal to strengthen vanpool groups by helping to recruit committed riders who use the service. Pierce Transit guidelines for minimum daily ridership levels are based on the total number participants in the vanpool. These guidelines are explained in the Vanpool Participant Reference Manual http://www.piercetransit.org/rideshare/pdfs/vp_manual.pdf. We expect riders to commute at least 50% of the time. As a public agency, Pierce Transit is responsible for using resources as efficiently as possible. We review and analyze our vanpool efficiencies to ensure our vanpools are productive and meet ridership goals. If a group is not able to maintain adequate ridership, and should we need the van due to increased demand, we may fold your group.