

# Vantage Point

MAY – JUNE 2011

## 30 Years of Excellence

### Celebrating Daphne Tackett

Vanpool, Business Partnerships and ORCA manager Daphne Tackett stood by her motto...we can do it, yes we can! That she did – for 30 years! Daphne started the Vanpool program with seven vans 25 years ago, and grew the program to 321 vans. She started our Employer Services division in the early 80's by cold-calling employers and encouraging them to provide transportation benefits for their employees; we now have over 130 business partners. Daphne managed Customer Services and the ADA Eligibility division at times during her career. The past few years, she learned the ins and outs of ORCA – One Regional Card for All – and led Pierce Transit and Pierce County employers into the new world of ORCA!

Well known and respected as an outstanding leader across our nation, Daphne is a founding member of the Washington State Ridesharing Organization and spearheaded the creation of RideshareOnline.com, which started regionally and is now a multi-state online ridematch system. Daphne's many achievements contributed greatly to our state being the nation's leader of public vanpooling and smart commuting. We celebrated Daphne's achievements on April 20, her 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Pierce Transit, with a home cooked breakfast. We bid her farewell April 29. The past six months, under Daphne's guidance, Assistant Manager Lani Fowlkes was busy learning the "rest of vanpool" and is ready to carry on all things Vanpool.



Retiring Manager Daphne Tackett and Vanpool Assistant Manager Lani Fowlkes

## Pierce Transit Vanpool Turns 25!

### Planning a Scenic Vanpool Drive Down Memory Lane

Join us in bringing the first 25 years of vanpool to life with your stories and commute experiences. Watch for some fun inventive accolades and stories in the coming months. But we can't do it without you! Coming soon...interviews, pictures, fun!



Vantage Point is a publication of Pierce Transit.

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# HAPPENINGS



## MAY – National Bike Month

### Fuel Costs Driving you Crazy? Pedal your Bike!

April showers – you bet! May flowers – oh yeah! Bicyclists – for sure! Bicycling provides exercise, saves fuel, and is fun. Commuters change up your commute and pedal to work. A four-mile trip by bicycle instead of car keeps about 15 pounds of pollutants out of the air we breathe. Live too far from work? Pedal to the Park & Ride to catch the vanpool. Pierce Transit does not provide bike racks on vanpools, but bike lockers are available at some Park & Rides and at most Transit Centers, for a nominal fee. For locker locations, visit [piercetransit.org/prlot.htm](http://piercetransit.org/prlot.htm). Plan today for your ride tomorrow, or all month.

Work in Pierce County? Bicycle at least 51% of the trip to work, five or more days in May, and log your trips at [piercetrips.com](http://piercetrips.com) for eligibility to win REI gift certificates or bike tune-up, sponsored by REI. Plan to attend one or many exciting bike events. For a complete list of planned events in Pierce County see [piercetransit.org/bikemonth.htm](http://piercetransit.org/bikemonth.htm).

Live or work in Puyallup? Puyallup geared up for Bike Month Puyallup, with more chances to win rewards thanks to [RideshareOnline.com](http://RideshareOnline.com), Pierce County, City of Puyallup, Puyallup Main Street Association and Pierce Transit. For complete details visit [piercetransit.org/bikepuyallup.htm](http://piercetransit.org/bikepuyallup.htm).

Work outside of Pierce County? Check out [wsdot.wa.gov/bike/toworkmonth.htm](http://wsdot.wa.gov/bike/toworkmonth.htm) for events and rewards for other Puget Sound counties. Bicycling – the healthy and fuel-free commute option – is the craze this month!

## Share the Road

### And Be A Good “Roll Model”

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and AAA’s new “Roll Model” campaign reminds us to ride safely and set positive examples encouraging our children and teens to ride safely. A properly fitted helmet and visible attire are crucial.

As a bicyclist, you have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists, including the right to ride in the traffic lane. Bicyclists must follow the same laws as motorized vehicles: ride in the same direction as vehicle traffic (keeping to the right) obey posted signs and traffic lights, and signal your intentions. Obey the rules of the road at all times.

As a motorist, share the road and treat bicyclists respectfully. Leave a 3 to 5 foot clearance between your vehicle and the bicyclist and pass the cyclist only when safe to do so. When parked, be careful not to open a door in the path of a cyclist.



## Spring Wheel Options

### Announcing Winners

The Grand Prize winner of the NY trip for two is Debra Bateman from Spokane County. For a list of winners, see [Wheeloptions.org/Winners/22.aspx](http://Wheeloptions.org/Winners/22.aspx).

## Dump the Pump



### June 16 – JUST SAY NO!

Consider bypassing the use or purchase of fuel on Thursday June 16, the sixth annual National Dump the Pump day. Fuel is over \$4 per gallon and rising. Choose transit, vanpool, carpool, bike, or walk this day.

# Safety Zone

## National Safety Month

Each June, the National Safety Council (NSC) encourages organizations to participate in National Safety Month. Each week carries a theme that brings attention to critical safety issues. The June 26-30 focus is **On the Road – Off the Phone**. CTIA Wireless and the NSC bring this message to you via a powerful radio Public Service Announcement (PSA). View the short video from the link to the right.

Using a phone to talk, text, yes even surf the internet – distracts drivers in three ways: physically – taking hands off the wheel, visually – taking eyes off the road, and cognitively – mind wanders so the driver employs only a portion of his mental energy in driving the vehicle. While a handheld device may remove the physical or visual aspects, a phone conversation still compromises the driver's attention. On the road, other motorists who talk, text, even post and blog, surround us. Spread the word among your family and friends that phone use while driving is an accident waiting to happen! Thank you approved volunteer vanpool drivers for abiding by our policy "do not use any telecommuting device while operating the van".

## Speeders, Tailgaters...Listen Up!

We received many comments in the last three months from other motorists, other vanpoolers and agency staff regarding aggressive and erratic driving habits among volunteer vanpool drivers, such as speeding and tailgating.

*"I see many Pierce Transit vanpools tailgate: 60, 70, 75 mph and they are less than a car length behind. I think it's getting bad out there."*

*A volunteer vanpool driver email to Pierce Transit, March 2011*

We reminded some of you to slow down and drive defensively. This goes out to all other vanpool volunteer drivers: Are you letting your guard down behind the wheel? With an increase in bicyclists on the road, traffic construction and road projects in full speed, and fellow motorists with driving distractions – we clearly have to be on our game! We need to be well-rested, patient, and allow plenty of time for our commute. To drive the point home – slow down and increase your following distance.

## Rough Road Ahead

For commuters traveling SR 16, your trip is about to get dicier with detours, a hairpin curve, and 15 mph. For temporary roadway from northbound I-5 to SR 16 May 9 – June 30, local street closures, and more, stay in tune at [wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/PierceCountyHOV/SR16\\_WBNalleyValley/Detours.htm](http://wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/PierceCountyHOV/SR16_WBNalleyValley/Detours.htm). Keep your PT vanpool coordinator in the loop for route changes and detours. Drive safely and allow plenty of commute time.



CTIA: "On the Road, Off the Phone"  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtC14qfAS1U&feature=player\\_detailpage](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtC14qfAS1U&feature=player_detailpage)



**Keys, please?**  
Submit all requests for keys to your PT vanpool coordinator. Pierce Transit Maintenance team cuts and programs all keys. Do not make duplicates of any vanpool key.



# Agency News



## **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](mailto:Vanpool@piercetransit.org)

## **RIDESHARE**

**1.888.814.1300**  
[RideshareOnline.com](http://RideshareOnline.com)

## **PIERCE TRANSIT**

**Customer Services**  
253.581.8000

**Toll Free**  
1.800.562.8109

**TDD Customer Service**  
253.582.7951

[Piercetransit.org](http://Piercetransit.org)

## **Vanpool Passenger Miles Traveled Audit**

### **New in 2011...**

Pierce Transit is conducting an audit mandated by the Federal Transit Administration to provide additional passenger commute information for the National Transit Database (NTD). This audit captures the actual miles each rider travels in a vanpool on a specific day. We randomly select groups each quarter, so a group may be chosen more than once. Thanks to the first 34 groups that recorded data for us in March. The next audit is in June. If your group is selected, we will notify the volunteer primary driver and provide instructions to complete the audit.

## **Vanpool Annual State Audit**

### **PT Vanpools Traveled 4.5 Million Vehicle Miles in 2010!**

Pierce Transit vanpool team received "Congratulations on another job well done!" from the state auditor, passing this year's audit with flying colors. Thanks to all volunteer bookkeepers for neat, timely, detailed and accurate monthly reporting. We could not do such a great job without you. And you thought we just had you mark those x and / marks for the heck of it? Quite the opposite: we analyze, balance and report each month's data and account for every single mile on our fleet of 321 vehicles. We report all mileage and passenger trips to the National Transit Database. Each year, NTD performance data is used to apportion FTA funds to transit agencies in urbanized areas (UZAs) across the nation. Annual NTD reports are submitted to Congress summarizing transit service and safety data. Volunteer bookkeepers, you play a very important role in the vanpool. PT vanpools commuted 4.5 million vehicle miles, 138 thousand vehicle hours, and had 825 thousand boardings in 2010. Thank you for choosing vanpool.

## **Pierce Transit's Future**



### **Pierce Transit Proposed Reduction**

Five public hearings were held in April, with over 350 testimonies and comments to the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners and staff. For recaps of these meetings visit [piercetransit.org](http://piercetransit.org). The public is invited to the next Board of Commissioners Board Meeting May 9 at 4 p.m. at the Pierce Transit Training Center, 3720 96th St SW, Lakewood, WA 99499.