



CARPOOLING



Source: <http://noodlesandnewurbanism.org>

More Information: tti.tamu.edu/policy/how-to-fix-congestion

Description

Carpooling is when commuters with similar origins and destinations share a ride instead of driving alone.

Employers encourage carpooling through discounted/favorable parking, flexible work schedules, and guaranteed ride home programs. Guaranteed ride home programs offer members a free and reliable ride home during an emergency or unexpected schedule change.

Transportation agencies encourage carpooling by developing infrastructure to support carpooling. This infrastructure includes high-occupancy vehicle lanes, managed lanes, discounted tolls for registered carpools, and support for area-wide ridesharing programs.

Target Market

- Congested corridors during peak hours.
- Downtown or other activity centers with limited parking or paid parking.
- Areas without transit service or adequate parking.

Carpooling works best in areas that have managed lanes (with discounts for carpools) and park-and-ride lots.

How Will This Help?

- **Reduces congestion** by eliminating cars from the road. Of respondents to the Texas A&M Transportation Institute's Texas Transportation Poll, 24 percent responded that they have carpooled in the last year as a response to congestion.
- **Lowers costs for users** (fuel and maintenance), employers (parking), and transportation agencies (roadway capacity).
- **Decreases auto emissions** by removing cars from the road and allowing more efficient speeds.

Implementation Issues

Ridesharing programs are easily implemented by both employers and the city/region but require changes in personal driving habits. Public agencies encourage and facilitate these programs by providing incentives, including guaranteed ride home programs, marketing, and parking incentives.

COST



TIME



IMPACT



WHO



CITY/PRIVATE

HURDLES



PERSONAL HABITS

SUCCESS STORIES

Houston, Texas



The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County reported a

19% increase in carpool/vanpool passenger miles on its high-occupancy vehicle lane system from 2005 to 2014.

This led to more than

12% of workers carpooling in 2013, more than other large Texas cities, San Francisco, or Washington, D.C.

Seattle, Washington

Seattle Children's Hospital provides access to **priority carpool parking** by requiring two employee badges for entrance, **part of a strategy that has reduced single-occupant vehicle trips** by

10% from 2004 to 2014.

