



# REAL-TIME RIDESHARING



**WHO**

CITY/PRIVATE

**HURDLES**

REGULATORY

**More Information:** [tti.tamu.edu/policy/how-to-fix-congestion](http://tti.tamu.edu/policy/how-to-fix-congestion)

## Description

Real-time ridesharing is a system that uses technology to match drivers and riders for carpooling. The method works like traditional carpooling but allows for many different types of trips.

Real-time ridesharing without technology, also known as slugging, is sometimes used to qualify for high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane use. Using technology for ridesharing can improve the safety, efficiency, and overall service for both managed and unmanaged roadways. Smartphone apps can be used to:

- Locate likely drivers.
- Provide information on drivers to help users decide if they would like to share a ride.
- Offer an automatic payment system to pay the driver without exchanging cash.

## Target Market

- People in areas not well served by transit.
- People in city/town activity centers.
- HOV lane users seeking passengers or drivers.

- People comfortable with computer and cell phone messaging.

## How Will This Help?

- **Reduces congestion** by decreasing cars on the road and increasing HOV lane use.
- **Lowers commuting costs** for users by sharing costs or eliminating the need for a car.
- **Decreases emissions** by removing cars from the road and allowing more efficient speeds.

## Implementation Issues

Some confusion exists regarding the difference between transportation companies that charge a taxi-like fee for trips, and others that follow a federal definition of real-time ridesharing that limits the cost recovered to not exceed the cost of the trip provided.

Different levels of government will need to consider the impacts of legislation on implementation. Colorado's passage of Senate Bill 125 allows services such as Uber and Lyft to operate under certain restrictions, and other jurisdictions will continue to work through local issues.

## SUCCESS STORIES



**Real-time ridesharing app developer Carma** reported its San Francisco

Bay community had an estimated **savings of over \$30 million** related to time savings, transit capital and operating cost savings, and carbon dioxide emissions.

