

NC Rural Vanpool Program

Presented by:
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What is Vanpooling?

Vanpools are described as...

- Commuter van
- Transporting 5-15 people
- Shared commute patterns
- Drivers are voluntary/unpaid from the group
- Expenses are shared

Vanpool Driver Benefits:

- Receives use of vehicle for personal trips – 150 personal miles per month
- Reduces need to purchase a personal vehicle
- Obtains lower vehicle insurance rates
- Reduces household's vehicle maintenance costs
- Requires no long term commitment

Vanpool Rider Benefits:

- Reduces stress as employees arrive relaxed and ready to work
- Increases access to job markets
- Reduces walking distance from parking lot to worksite (vanpools often enjoy preferential parking at employer sites)
- Saves money on commute costs such as gasoline, and wear-and-tear on personal vehicles
- Federal Commuter Choice Program Eligible- pre-tax deductions for fares

Employer Benefits:

- Reduces the need for additional parking
- Increases access to labor markets
- Increases productivity, reduces absenteeism and tardiness
- Federal Commuter Choice Program- reduces tax payouts on employee wages
www.commuterchoice.com
- Provides an effective, low-cost recruitment tool

Community Benefits:

- Serves communities not served by transit
- Requires fewer passengers than a bus
- Increases federal and state funds/credits to transit
- Provides a low cost alternative to serving long distance and low density origins
- Fare-box can produce up to 100% of operating costs, thus lowering need for local government subsidies
- Provides transit option for other groups (e.g. Welfare to Work)

Rural Vanpool Program Goals

- Provide commerce employment transportation services to low income individuals, human service agencies, and other general public riders
- Develop a long term sustainable community transportation system - that is complementary to other transit services
- Provide access to commerce employment sites not currently served by existing transportation system routes
- Promote economic development for citizens, counties, and employers
- Provide cost effective, coordinated regional transportation services

Job Access History

- FTA(JARC)/NCDOT grant
- Originally proposed DSS involvement
- 6 Pilot counties in the southeast region
- Following limited DSS interest, 2Plus targeted the private employment sector
- With 30 vans currently in service, we now have a successful and proven model for vanpooling

Job Access Future

- Grow statewide ridership
- Expand program by “coordination”
- Developing county partnerships
- Offer specialized services to interested entities
 - Research route potential
 - Marketing/Sales for route formation

Roles/Responsibilities

NC DOT/PTD

- ✓ Provide capital and administrative costs
- ✓ Recognize/Approve rural vanpool routes
- ✓ Report rural vanpool activities to FTA

AGENCY/BUSINESS PARTICIPANT

- ✓ Identify/provide potential riders
- ✓ Establish coordinator/contact in development/expansion of vanpool routes
- ✓ Provide share of operating or administrative cost of county vanpools (voluntary)

2PLUS, INC.

- ✓ Provide rider recruitment and route formation services
- ✓ Coordinate and manage all finances
- ✓ Collect and report NTD (5307/5311) data
- ✓ Provide vehicles, maintenance, and insurance for rural vanpools
- ✓ Screen, approve, and manage primary and back up drivers
- ✓ Assist in developing ridership through contact with employers

Stakeholders

Who benefits from and can lead the development of employment transportation services in a county

Department of Social Services

Welfare to Work Programs

Vocational Rehabilitation

JobLink Career Centers

Rural/Urban Transportation Systems

Employment Security Commission

Other Human Service Agencies

Elected Officials

Economic Developers

Community Colleges

Faith Based Organizations

Mental Health Centers

Civic Organizations

Employers

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does it cost?

- Cost generally range from \$5-\$7
- Some employers help subsidize the cost of vanpooling as an employee benefit and recruitment tool.

Who owns the vans?

- The vans are leased to 2Plus and we turn the vans over to the drivers via a third party agreement.

What are the vans like?

- 2Plus provides 12 or 15-passenger vans with air-conditioning, AM/FM radio, and automatic transmission. Our current van provider is Triangle Rent a Car. These are brand new program vans that are switched out every 25,000 miles or 6 months.

Continued FAQ's

Who takes care of maintenance?

- 2Plus provides free preventive maintenance and repair work.

Who drives and what are the requirements?

- The driver is a commuter that commits to taking other passengers to work each day who also works at or near the same destination. The driver may drive every day or share the driving with a back-up driver. Drivers must be at least 21 years old with a current North Carolina driver's license, and have a clean driving record (3 points or less).

Who pays for gasoline for the vans?

- 2Plus issues a credit card to drivers to pay for gas, and drivers submit their receipts on a monthly basis. Gasoline is factored into the total fare.

Continued FAQ's

How are fares collected?

- Riders pay their fare to the vanpool's driver, who in turn sends checks or money order to 2Plus on a monthly basis. The driver sets policy about whether he or she would like cash or checks from the passengers. Some employers offer payroll deduction of fares as a part of the Federal Commuter Choice Program. See www.commuterchoice.com

What about insurance?

- 2Plus pays for the van's insurance, including collision and \$1.5 Million liability.

Does the van provide door-to-door service?

- Yes, choosing a centralized location may reduce fare cost.

Continued FAQ's

What if the driver is sick or on vacation?

- Each van has a back-up driver in case the primary driver cannot drive the van for whatever reason.

How do I get started?

- For information on starting a new vanpool or contact Brent Hodges at (336) 771-0022 or send an email to bhodes@2plus.com

Job Access Rural Vanpool Program

