



### 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 areawide 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.

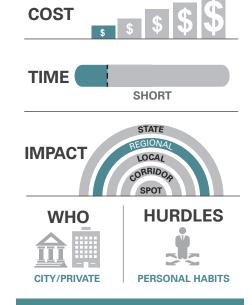
Carpooling works best in areas that have managed lanes (with discounts for carpools) and park-and-ride lots.

# **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.



# **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.



