

? Is financial assistance available?

Yes.

NJTRANSIT Vanpool Sponsorship Program

The NJTRANSIT Vanpool Sponsorship Program offers \$175 per month to eligible vanpools toward the lease cost of vanpools operating in New Jersey. The amount of the subsidy is deducted directly from the Vanpool Provider invoice each month.

Eligibility for the sponsorship is determined by NJTRANSIT. Vans must be obtained from a participating Vanpool Provider and must be driven to a New Jersey worksite.

HART Empty Seat Subsidy Program

If a vanpool is short one or more passengers at the beginning of the vanpool, or loses a passenger during the course of the year, HART will pay up to \$80.00 of the share of the lease for the missing commuter(s) for a period of up to 3 months while new vanpool riders are found. Vanpools must actively solicit new riders to be eligible for the subsidy. HART will assist vanpools in finding new riders using the RIDEPRO ridematching system.

? Is there other assistance available?

Yes.

HART Emergency Ride Home Program (ERH)

If a vanpooler must leave work early due to an emergency, they may contact the rental car provider under contract with HART to secure a ride home. HART will pay the cost of the rental (restrictions apply). Any commuter participating in a Hunterdon County bound vanpool and is registered with HART is eligible to use the Emergency Ride Home Program up to 4 times per year. Contact HART for more information.

? How do I join an existing vanpool?

Contact HART, 908.788.5553, to find out if there is a vanpool traveling in your area with available seats.

Starting a Vanpool



- Benefits
- Leasing
- Insurance
- Maintenance
- Cost
- Assistance



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Benefits of Vanpooling

The American Automobile Association (AAA) calculates that operating your own car costs approximately .71 cents/mile (2008). If you drive your car to work alone five days per week, 40 miles one way, it will cost you approximately **\$1,136.00 per month.**

By contrast, vanpool costs are calculated between .05 and .10 cents/mile. The same commute of 40 miles would cost you just **\$160.00/month!** (costs will vary depending upon individual lease agreements, number of participants and/or gasoline costs)

The Commuter Choice Provision of the federal IRS tax code allows commuters to deduct up to \$120.00/month, pre-tax, from your paycheck to pay for your vanpool costs. This translates into even more savings! Ask your employer about making deductions.

Since you will be using your personal vehicle less frequently, vanpool commuters are often eligible for reductions in their personal automobile insurance premiums. Contact your insurance carrier for more information.

? What is a Vanpool?

A vanpool is 7-15 commuters who work at a common destination, have compatible work hours, and ride to and from work in a commuter van that they LEASE as a GROUP from a third party Vanpool Provider. A vanpool is NOT a small bus service.

? Where do we lease the Van?

You may contact one of the following Vanpool Providers serving New Jersey to negotiate a lease:

Van Pool of NJ/ VPSI
246 Route 130 South
Bordentown, NJ 08505
1.800.826.7665 / 1.800.826.7443
609.298.1655 phone
609.298.1336 fax
www.vpsiinc.com

Archbald Vanpool, Inc.
377 Main Street
Archbald, PA 18403
570.876.2518 phone

? What does a Vanpool lease cost?

Vanpool Providers price the leases competitively depending on the size of the van. A vanpool group agrees to a price based on the size of the van, the age of the van, and the number of miles the van is to be driven each month. Prices can vary from \$800.00- \$1500.00 per month.

? What is the time commitment of a Vanpool Lease?

Most Vanpool Providers offer "month-to-month" leases, with a one month termination requirement.

? Who drives the van?

One or more members of the vanpool, possessing a valid drivers license, agree to share the driving. Two common options are:

- The van is driven by one vanpool participant at all times. Often, when one person agrees to be the designated driver, the other vanpool participants offer that individual a reduced cost share in the vanpool.
- The van is driven on a rotation basis with two or more of the vanpoolers taking turns driving daily, weekly, or monthly.

? How do I start a vanpool?

Start by talking with co-workers who live near you, or who may already be carpooling from your area. Meet for coffee, or over lunch, to discuss the information contained in this brochure.

If you have identified at least 4 individuals who are interested in starting a vanpool, contact the Vanpool Providers listed to discuss lease options and lease prices.

Should you choose to enter into a lease agreement with a Vanpool Provider, contact HART, 908.788.5553, to register your vanpool and enroll in the NJTRANSIT Vanpool Sponsorship Program.

? What about vehicle maintenance?

The vanpool providers arrange for, and include all maintenance of the vehicles, as part of the cost of the lease agreement. The only additional "out of pocket" expenses to the vanpoolers are tolls, gasoline or parking, as necessary.

? Where is the van parked at night?

The vanpool participants decide where to keep the vehicle when not in use. In most cases, the driver takes the van home, or, in rare instances, the vanpool is kept at a park and ride location. (permission is required from park and ride facility for overnight parking).

? What about insurance and liability?

The Vanpool Provider carries insurance on all leased vehicles and is included in the monthly lease cost. Coverage varies by vehicle and lease agreement.

Under New Jersey law, participation in a vanpool does NOT constitute time at work and therefore, any injury sustained in a vanpool accident would not be covered by Worker's Compensation.

Specifically, under the New Jersey Ridesharing Act of 1981 (P. L. 27:26-4): "an employer shall not be liable for injuries or damages sustained by passengers and other persons resulting from the operation or use of a motor vehicle not owned, leased, or contracted for by the employer, when his or her employee is in a rideshare arrangement between his or her place of residence and place of employment or termini near such places"

Similarly, "an employer shall not be liable for injuries or damages sustained by passengers or other persons because he or she provides information, incentives, or otherwise encourages his or her employees to participate in a rideshare arrangement"