



King County Metro Transit Ridesharing Services

What is the program?

King County Metro operates three lines of business to support ridesharing: Vanpool, Vanshare, and the statewide ridematching service, RideshareOnline.com.

Vanpool

Metro operates the oldest and largest public commuter van program in the nation. VanPool has been a guiding resource for other vanpool programs around the country. VanPool provides the van and everything else for successful ridesharing: rider support services, maintenance, insurance, fuel, tires and training. Groups of five to fifteen people all over the Puget Sound region are choosing to vanpool. Metro currently has over 980 vans on the road and several dozen in formation.

Vanshare

Vanshare is an innovative program that uses vanpool vehicles due for retirement from the fleet and puts them back into service to help commuters solve the “last mile” problem. Vanshare serves many Sounder commuter rail stations, connecting Sound Transit riders to their workplace where no similar connection existed before. Likewise, many Washington State Ferries customers complete their commute in a Vanshare vehicle. There are currently over 180 Vanshares on the road.

RideshareOnline.com

Thousands of people all over the state use RideshareOnline.com to find their carpool, Vanpool, or Vanshare partners. See below for more information.

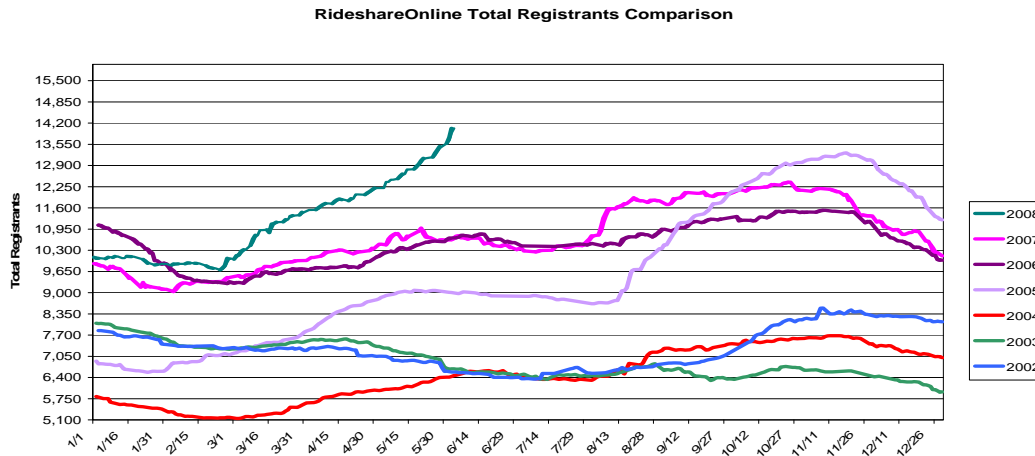
How does the program help reduce VMT?

Ridesharing increases average vehicle occupancy (AVO). As AVO rises, a single vehicle accomplished the travel need for more people, taking cars off the road. This leads to reductions in VMT. Furthermore, ridesharing meet travelers’ mobility needs in many context where public transportation cannot due to high costs.



What's happening now?

As with transit use statewide, ridesharing is increasing due to rising fuel costs. The chart below tracks RideshareOnline.com registrations over time.



Over eighty percent of RideshareOnline registrants live and work in the Central Puget Sound region.

In terms of GHG emissions reductions, the Vanpool program has been very successful. While not expressed in terms of VMT, consider the impacts of the Vanpool program:

- Saved 21,000 Tons of GHG from being produced.
- Saved 2,150,000 of equivalent gallons of fossil fuel from being consumed.
- Experienced a 70% reduction in all regulated emission categories.
- Saved our citizens \$7,800,000 in vehicle fuel and maintenance costs.

What can we be doing with existing resources?

Demand for vanpools is way up. Rideshare Operations is receiving a record number of driver applications. There has been a 16% increase over the same period in 2007. Metro has added an extra Saturday orientation class in June to accommodate 30+ volunteer vanpool drivers and adding two additional Saturday classes next quarter. Presently Metro has 15 new vanpool groups scheduled to start with another 16 new vanpool groups in formation, for a total of 31 new vanpool starts scheduled for June already. The VanShare program has four groups starting from King Street station now that additional parking has been arranged and one vanshare being formed.

The IWG should prioritize promotion of carpooling and vanpooling as the motorized modes that can do the most to reduce VMT in the short term at the lowest cost.

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What could we be doing with additional resources?

The Washington State Ridesharing Organization (WSRO) developed the following list of priority investments for 2007-2008. This list is being updated in collaboration with the state Commute Trip Reduction Board and the Washington State Transit Association. The priority projects are:

- Purchase additional expansion vans to meet customer demand based on priority criteria. \$10 - \$12 million.
- Establish a statewide customer loyalty program with an “incentive registration” and “calendar tracking system.” linked to RideshareOnline.com while maintaining individual program branding. \$1.25 million.
- Identify and install roadside signage for RideshareOnline statewide. \$500,000.
- Incentive tracking and calendar registration established on one central database connected to RideshareOnline. \$250,000.

This list will change as the 2009 legislative strategy is developed, but indicates where new resources can lead to success in reducing VMT.