

December 2019/January 2020 Commuter Van Bulletin



Dear Commuter Van driver,

As 2019 winds down, please take a few minutes to review our annual adverse weather driving notice.

Included in this bulletin:

- [Plan Ahead For Winter Driving](#)
- [Adverse Weather Driving Tips](#)
- [Preventable Collisions Reminder](#)
- [40th VANniversary Ending](#)

PLAN AHEAD FOR WINTER DRIVING – The seasons, and weather, have changed; now is the time to plan and prepare for adverse weather in the months ahead. Please prepare by doing the following within your commuter van group.

- Review your individual snow plans and plan for alternate routes for your group. Update as necessary. Community van drivers and riders, please contact your Community Transportation Coordinator to discuss travel plans during inclement weather.
- Carry sand or kitty litter, a snow shovel, gloves, and a flashlight. Check your snow "chains" now for fit and readiness.
- Review the following:
 - [Emergency procedures](#)
 - General [adverse weather information](#)
 - [Flood preparedness information](#)

ADVERSE WEATHER DRIVING TIPS – In the event you are commuting during times of adverse weather, please remember to:

- Check traffic/weather reports. Travel alerts and road conditions: www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic
- Prior to driving, clear snow/ice from car surfaces as snow on the hood can blow toward the windshield and block your view.
- Keep your mobile phones fully charged.
- Keep your fuel tank at least 1/2 full and check that your wiper-fluid reservoir is full.
- Drive with your headlights on and don't use cruise control.

- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Slow down. If possible, avoid driving altogether.
- Increase following distance to 8 -10 seconds and stay at least 15 car-lengths (200 feet) back from maintenance vehicles and plows and don't pass them on the right.
- If possible, do not stop when going uphill. Signal distress using provided warning triangles, or a brightly colored cloth tied to the antenna or in a rolled up window. If stranded, do not try to push your vehicle out of snow.
- Even when roads are dry, watch out for icy bridges, overpasses and underpasses.

PREVENTABLE COLLISIONS REMINDER – The Commuter Van Program continues to see a high rate of preventable accidents; specifically drivers hitting fixed objects with their vans such as posts, poles, walls, barriers, etc. and frequently occurs in parking lots or parking garages. These types of accidents can be avoided by driving cautiously, using your passengers as spotters, and realizing that the vans are longer and wider than most private vehicles. **Protect your driving privileges by avoiding preventable collisions.**

40TH VANniversary ENDING – As our 40th VANniversary year winds down, we want to close with a heart-felt "Thank-you" to all of you - our volunteer drivers. Without you, our 1,600+ vans would not operate each day which makes you key to our program success! The impact to our region of reduced congestion and air pollution from you and your fellow commuters' commitment to sharing the ride cannot be overstated. As we celebrate our 40 year history, we are also looking ahead to vehicle technology advancements and continuing to evolve our program to ensure vanpool is an efficient, flexible and cost saving option to driving alone.

Thanks again for your participation! If you would like to share your experience about your vanpool participation and how it has improved your commuting experience, please send your comments to vanpool@kingcounty.gov with "Vanpool Experience" in the subject line. If we use your comments in our materials, we will send you a \$25 gift card!

Thank you and Happy Vanpooling!

King County Metro Commuter Van Services

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Get the latest! Like us on [Facebook](#) to stay up to date on incentives, contests and everything else that's hip about Metro Vanpool.

Send us an [e-mail](#).

Or give us a call at 206-625-4500 during business hours (8-5, M-F).
