



## Sept. 2022 Bulletin – Sen via GovDelivery 9/16/22 King County Metro Commuter Van subscribers

We are hearing from more and more customers that they are returning to work. Please review some important reminders below about restarting your commute in a Metro van as well as other program updates and resources.

### Included in this bulletin:

- [Fall Driver Safety Tips](#)
- [Rider Recruitment](#)
- [Calling For Volunteers: Vanpool Improvement Project & Vanpool Profiles](#)

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**FALL DRIVER SAFETY TIPS** – Fall presents many different challenges for drivers in the Puget Sound region. First, there’s the changing weather with an increase in precipitation and falling leaves making for slippery roads. In addition, the changing weather brings more animals on the roadways as they shift their patterns during cooler weather. Also, the days are getting shorter, and you’re more apt to drive during the hours of darkness for your commute. Finally, the region’s kids are returning to school, making for busier roadways, with school buses and also more pedestrian traffic. So, please take your time and be aware of your surroundings. Here are some helpful fall driving safety tips to help make for a safer commute:

- Stay within the speed limit; slow down when conditions or visibility are poor.
- Keep a safe distance between you and the car in front of you to allow reaction time and avoid sudden braking and acceleration on wet streets.
- Skip the high beams and stick with low which are better in fog and won’t cause glare.
- Clear windshields of dirt and debris inside and frost and ice outside; check your windshield wipers for proper operation often.
- Leave extra time in the morning to make sure you completely defrost windows before you begin driving.
- Be alert for deer and other wildlife in the early morning and evening hours.
- Checking and regulating your tire pressure daily is essential as the temps fluctuate and affect the pressure.
- Report all vehicle damage to program staff within 48 hours ([Vanpool Incident Report](#)).

**RIDER RECRUITMENT** – We have temporarily reduced the minimum ridership from five to three or more participants for the Metro Commuter Van Program so many groups may have the capacity to add more riders.

Share the vanpool benefits with co-workers, friends or neighbors and let them try out your vanpool or vanshare to see if it's a good fit. Metro's [Ticket-2-Ride](#) [external link, DocuSign] allows commuters to ride and try out your vanpool for free – and now, the form is an online DocuSign form so it's easy to send to potential riders and even easier for them to fill out and try vanpooling for FREE! Find this form in our vanpool resources page for [finding and recruiting riders](#).

**CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS: VANPOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT & VANPOOL PROFILES** – Here are some opportunities to help shape our program or highlight your vanpool story.

1. **Vanpool Profiles:** We are looking for volunteers who would like to share their vanpool story so we may continue to develop marketing campaigns to promote vanpooling. Your vanpool experience could be featured in printed Commuter Van Bulletin promotional materials, included in digital campaigns, or we might write a commuter spotlight featuring your vanpool commute.
2. **Vanpool Improvement Project:** We have many efforts underway to help evolve our program and are gathering information from customers and partners. This will help us learn how to better serve current, new, rural, urban, and low-income commuters with additional program features, benefits and improved innovation.

As a current vanpool or vanshare participant your insights and feedback are very important and could help guide our efforts in growing our program and building a better customer experience. Your time and insights into our Metro Commuter Van program are valuable and appreciated. We will provide a \$50 gift card to selected participants sharing their story or participating in a focus group.

Please email us at [vanpool@kingcounty.gov](mailto:vanpool@kingcounty.gov) if you are interested in this opportunity. Use the subject line to tell us who you are and your interest; for example - **Subject:** *Calling for Volunteers - [Your Name], [Your Group Number], Vanpool Profiles.*

**Thank you and Happy Vanpooling**

**Archived Bulletins** - If you have missed any bulletins, we have archived them [here](#).

**King County Metro Commuter Van Services**

