

Express Lanes: Carpool & Vanpool

HOW CAN I FIND A CARPOOL

Visit carpool.511.org to register to carpool through your home or work county or the regional matching system, Merge. Match with other Bay Area commuters looking for long-term carpool arrangements with no built-in fees. Explore carpool rewards offered by your home or work county.

HOW CAN I FIND A VANPOOL?

Visit vanpool.511.org to learn more about vanpooling. Vanpool.511.org has an inventory of vanpools with empty seats. You can also register in merge.511.org to take advantage of seats that may become available in the future on existing and new vans. When you join a vanpool, your monthly seat fee covers van maintenance, insurance, gas, and parking costs.



WHAT ARE THE CARPOOL HOURS ON EXPRESS LANES?

5 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday – Friday.

WHAT ARE THE EXPRESS LANE CARPOOL RULES?

- 2-person carpools pay half-price tolls with FasTrak Flex® on I-880, SR-237 and US-101 express lanes
- 2-person carpools travel toll free with FasTrak Flex® on I-680 and I-580 express lanes
- 3+ carpools travel toll free with FasTrak Flex® on all express lanes



WHY DO I NEED FASTRAK FLEX®?

Without a Flex tag set to a carpool position, the toll readers classify the car as a single-occupant vehicle and the driver is charged full tolls even if the driver is carpooling.

HOW DO I GET FASTRAK FLEX®?

Visit bayareafastrak.org You can also call 877-BAY-TOLL (877-229-8655).



WHY CARPOOL?

- To travel toll free or at a reduced toll
- To get out of general-purpose lane traffic and get a more reliable trip in the express lane
- To share commute costs like gas and parking
- For companionship on the drive and to connect with colleagues and neighbors
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ground-level ozone
- To earn county-provided rewards

WHAT ARE THE REWARDS FOR VANPOOLING?

- **Monthly Vanpool Subsidy:** Bay Area vanpools rented from Commute With Enterprise that meet program criteria are eligible for a \$500 monthly subsidy. Several counties offer additional subsidies.
- **Discounted Parking Permits:** The cities of [Oakland](#) and [San Francisco](#) offer discounted (or reduced-cost) parking permits for qualified vanpools.
- **Free Bridge Tolls:** The Bay Area Vanpool Program provides free bridge tolls to 11 – 15 passenger vanpools by providing non-revenue FasTrak® toll tags.
- **Seat-Subsidy:** Owner-operated vans that are down a rider or two can apply for a rider subsidy.

Visit vanpool.511.org to learn more about incentives offered by your county.

WHAT PRICE DO CARPOOLERS IN 2-SEATER VEHICLES PAY?

Two-person carpools in 2-seater vehicles can travel toll-free on the express lanes that typically charge 2-person carpools half-price tolls (US-101, SR-237 and I-880) and must set their FasTrak Flex® toll tag in the 3+ position. This is consistent with the toll-bridge policy that allows 2-seater vehicles (with 2 occupants) to use the HOV lanes on bridges.

WHY CHARGE 2-PERSON CARPOOLS HALF-PRICE TOLLS?

Travel demand on US-101, SR-237 and I-880 is so high that if 2-person carpools used the express lanes toll-free, the lanes would not consistently provide a faster trip. To keep the express lanes moving fast and reliably, 3+ person vehicles travel toll free and 2-person carpools and clean air vehicles pay half-price tolls. Improved enforcement and access restrictions also help maintain express lane speed.

HOW DO EXPRESS LANES BENEFIT CARPOOLERS?

Carpool lanes frequently slow below 45 mph during peak traffic. Express lane technology helps manage the traffic in the lane to keep it flowing at 45 mph or better so that carpoolers get consistently reliable and faster trips.