

HOW CAN I FIND A CARPOOL?

Visit carpool.511.org to find a carpool. Carpool.511.org explains the Bay Area's matching tools: Merge (for longer-term carpool arrangements with no built-in fee), Scoop (for daily, fee-based carpooling), and Waze/Waze Carpool (for daily, sliding-fee-based carpooling). Casual Carpool pick-up locations are also available on carpool.511.org.

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 BAY AREA EXPRESS LANES?

5 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday – Friday, consistent with other Bay Area Express Lanes.

WHAT ARE THE TOLLING RULES ON THE I-680 CONTRA COSTA EXPRESS LANES?

- Single occupant cars pay full tolls
- Single occupant Clean Air Vehicles pay half-price tolls with a FasTrak CAV toll tag
- 2+ carpools travel toll free with FasTrak Flex



Carpools Must Have FasTrak Flex®	All Drivers Must Have FasTrak®		
			
			
Motorcycles are FREE with a FasTrak Flex toll tag set to 2+.	Clean Air Vehicles pay half-price tolls with a FasTrak CAV toll tag.		

**Tolling rules vary by express lane. Visit expresslanes.511.org.*

WHY POOL?

- 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 rewards

HOW DO I EARN REWARDS FOR CARPOOLING?

Create an account in the Bay Area matching tool, Merge, at merge.511.org to log your carpool and earn points that you can redeem for retail e-gift cards or a donation to the charity of your choice.

All carpool trips are eligible for points, regardless of how you formed your carpool (Merge, Scoop, Waze, Waze Carpool, Casual Carpool, or private carpool). Several counties also offer additional carpool rewards. If you live or work in Contra Costa County and are new to carpooling, you can earn a \$25 [Drive Less Commuter Incentive](#). Visit carpool.511.org to learn more about incentives offered by your county.



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 \$350 monthly subsidy.
- **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.

TIPS FOR CARPOOLING AND VANPOOLING DURING COVID-19

- [Create a carpool social bubble](#) by filling your carpool with the same people each time. [Merge](#) is ideal for identifying a consistent carpool partner(s).
- [Limit carpool size](#) to no more than one passenger per row of seats.
- [Sit diagonally from each other](#) for maximum distancing.
- [Wear a cloth mask that covers your nose and mouth](#) when in the vehicle.
- [Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.](#)
- [Wash your hands often and use hand sanitizer](#) that contains at least 70% isopropanol.
- [Clean and disinfect vehicle surfaces between after each trip:](#) door handles (inside and out), steering wheel, armrests, seatbelt/seatbelt buckles, seats, and knobs (including climate control, radio, glove box, etc.).
- If possible, [keep the windows open](#) when traveling to increase airflow.
- Stay home if you have any one of the identified [symptoms](#).

For complete and most up-to-date information on how to protect yourself in the COVID-19 environment visit the [CDC website](#).

HOW DO EXPRESS LANES IMPROVE CARPOOLERS' EXPERIENCE?

Pre-COVID, Bay Area's HOV lanes frequently slowed below 45 mph. Carpoolers are frustrated that their lanes do not move better. Express lanes provide technology to catch cheaters, convert cheaters to legitimate toll-paying customers, add access restrictions to reduce merges that slow down the lanes, and scale tolls to reward drivers based on vehicle occupancy. Finally, the dynamic tolling system sets price to keep traffic in the express lanes flowing smoothly.

HOW CAN I STAY INFORMED ABOUT BAY AREA EXPRESS LANES?

- Follow 511 on Facebook
- Follow MTC on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram
- Watch our educational videos at <https://www.youtube.com/user/mtcabaglibrary>
- Sign-up for e-mails about the Bay Area Express Lanes at service.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAMTC/subscriber/session/new



Learn more at [expresslanes.511.org](https://www.expresslanes.511.org)