

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 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?

Express lane equipment reads the FasTrak Flex tags in vehicles to learn which vehicles should receive toll discounts. When a tag is set in the 2 or 3+ position, the system applies the discounts according to the carpool requirements of the express lane. Without a Flex tag set to a carpool position, the driver is charged full tolls even if the driver is carpooling.

HOW DO I GET FASTRAK FLEX?

Visit getfastrak.com. This website explains how to use FasTrak on express lanes and how to open a new FasTrak account or add a FasTrak Flex tag to an existing account. You can also call 877-BAY-TOLL (877-229-8655).

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. 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.

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 IMPROVE CARPOOLERS' EXPERIENCE?

In peak traffic HOV lanes frequently slow below 45 mph, frustrating carpoolers 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.

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](#).



Learn more at expresslanes.511.org

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