

Carpooling

Definitions

Carpooling (also known as car-sharing, ride sharing, lift sharing and vanpooling), is the shared use of a car by the driver and one or more passengers, usually for commuting. Carpooling generally uses participants' own automobiles. Vanpooling generally uses rented vans (often supplied by employers, non-profit organizations or government agencies).

Context and Policies

Carpooling involves varying degrees of formality and regularity and makes use of private cars, or a jointly hired vehicle, for private shared journeys. Carpooling reduces the costs involved in repetitive or long distance driving. In many cases, companies or local authorities encourage carpooling through the provision of central listing facilities, defined pick-up points, preferential parking and general advice. Private rideshare agencies may also provide services to enable one off or regular carpooling in defined areas. In the "dynamic ridesharing" concept, a separate system performs a carpool match automatically for approval by the travellers through use of the Internet, mobile phones and other software support systems.

Issues

In spite of the efforts put into carpooling, it has failed to live up to expectations and Single Occupancy Vehicle rates remain high. A key reason that people give for not carpooling is that they have varying and unpredictable work schedules. The sacrifice of time and scheduling flexibility are significant deterrents and carpool users tend to travel further distances. Security precludes certain individuals from participating in carpools (e.g. children riding to/from school). These types of carpools are generally arranged only with people with trust.

Actions

Some countries have introduced high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to encourage carpooling and use of public transport, to combat rising traffic congestion.

Recommended Links

- [Car-pool.com](#) (UK)
- [CIVITAS Car Pooling](#) (EU)
- [Comove](#) (France)
- [Ecotrajjet](#) (France)
- [HOVER](#) (USA)
- [Liftshare](#) (UK)
- [MIT Real-Time Rides Research](#) (USA)
- [Moveco](#) (Germany)
- [National CarShare](#) (UK)
- [Ridesharing, Carpooling and Vanpooling](#) (Canada)
- [RoadSharing](#) (Italy)
- [Smart Commute](#) (Canada)
- [Tripmi](#) (Ireland)



Resources

Documents

- [Carpool Incentive Programs](#), 2005, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USA)
- [Casual Carpooling—Enhanced](#), 2007, Kalon L. Kelley, Journal of Public Transportation, Vol. 10, No. 4, 2007 (USA)
- [Demand for Car Pooling in the UK](#), 1997, Robert Sheldon and Chris Heywood, Accent Marketing & Research Ltd (UK)
- [Development of a Car Pooling](#), 2009, City of Potenza, CIVITAS (EU)
- [Empty Seats Traveling](#), 2006, Stephan Hartwig and Michael Buchmann, NOKIA Research Center (Sweden)
- [Flexible Carpooling: Exploratory Study](#), 2009, Diana M. Dorinson, Deanna Gay, Paul Minett and Susan Shaheen, UC Davis CA (USA)
- [Interactive System for Real Time Dynamic Multi-hop Carpooling](#), 2008, Philip A. Gruebele (USA)
- [Smart Commute Initiative](#), 2007, Smart Commute Initiative (Canada)
- [The "Driving" Factors Behind Successful Carpool Formation and Use](#), 2009, Buliung, Soltys, Habel, and Lanyon, University of Toronto at Mississauga (Canada)
- [Web Portal "Passaggiare": Supporting a Regional Car Pooling Network and Encouraging People Enjoying it](#), 2009, Lorenzo Servadei, HAW Hamburg (Germany)

Presentations

- [A Mobile Platform for TICO Ride Sharing](#), 2008, Nhan Chiang, Garrett Dodge, Ted Hamilton, Sung-Hyuck Lee, MIT Media Lab (USA)
- [The Economics of Car-Pooling: A Survey for Europe](#), 2004, Matteo Maria Galizzi, University of York (UK) and University of Insubria (Italy)

For further information

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