

# Travel Reduction Program

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is a Carpool?

Valley Metro is often asked by Transportation Coordinators (TCs) if their employees who drop their children off at school before driving to work, or drive with a spouse part of the way to work, are carpools. The answer? Maybe.

A carpool is an alternative that eliminates or avoids miles driven in a single-occupant vehicle (SOV). In general, at least two **driving-age** individuals traveling in the same general direction at least half the total trip distance, is a carpool. Here are three examples:

**Scenario #1:** A husband shares the commute by dropping off his wife at her employer 20 miles from their home. The husband then drives five additional miles to his employer. Both individuals should be considered carpoolers by their employers.

**Scenario #2:** A husband drops his wife off at her employer three miles from their home and proceeds to drive 17 miles alone to his company. The wife's employer should consider her a carpooler (she did not drive into work), but the husband's employer should not (he drove the majority of the trip alone).

For assistance with the Maricopa County Travel Reduction Program, contact your Valley Metro Commute Solutions coordinator at 602.262.RIDE (7433).

**Scenario #3:** A parent drops off two children at preschool two miles from home, then drops off a third child at middle school five miles from home. Then the parent drives another five miles alone to work. Even though the majority of the trip had others in the car, this trip is not carpooling because the three children are not driving-age.

Parents with children on board may use HOV lanes, however they are not a carpool unless the trips avoid drive-alone miles.



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