

TBARTA Regional Vanpool is a program serving commuters that live or work in the counties of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando and Citrus Counties. TBARTA is dedicated to reducing traffic congestion by encouraging the use of various commute options.

The program is a **Public-Private Partnership** with vRide-Enterprise, whom provides vehicles, insurance, maintenance and repair, billing, and support for the vanpool groups.

Vanpool “Nuts and Bolts”

-  A “vanpool” is a group of 5 to 15 commuters who regularly travel to and from work in a vehicle they lease.
-  Vanpoolers average between 24 and 54 miles each way to and from work.
-  Vanpool groups share the costs of the monthly lease, fuel and any other commute related expenses. The cost varies by the total miles that the vehicle will travel, the type of vehicle, how many riders are participating, and if any subsidies are being provided.

Program Highlights

-  The vanpool program is one of the most efficient forms of transportation available, with a cost recovery of 46.26 percent². The national average for bus transit is just over 25 percent¹.
-  The vanpool program serves over 1,200 trips per day, cutting congestion during peak travel times a fraction of the cost of other transportation services.
-  The cost of service delivery of the TBARTA Vanpool program is only \$0.78 per revenue mile. The average per revenue mile cost for transit service in Tampa Bay is \$5.14².
-  Typically serving trips that are longer in distance, the program is cost effective at \$0.15 per passenger mile. The average for transit agencies in Tampa Bay is \$0.92².
-  With 100 vehicles in service, TBARTA has the 3rd largest transportation fleet in Tampa Bay behind Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) and Pinellas Suncoast Transit (PSTA), and demand for vanpools is growing.

Key Services

-  Free ridematching with interactive maps help commuters find others looking to vanpool or carpool.
-  TBARTA and vRide-Enterprise help both commuters and employers in setting up and taking advantage of qualified federal pre-tax benefits available at \$255 per month, per rider.
-  As a Public Private Partnership, TBARTA reports the miles traveled by vanpoolers to the National Transit Database. These reports provide TBARTA access to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5307 Funds, which are utilized for a \$400 subsidy per vanpool vehicle in service. Through the funding formula the FTA uses, the additional miles TBARTA reports have brought an additional \$800K to the Tampa Bay region, which is shared with other transit agencies.
-  To assure riders are never stranded because of an emergency, TBARTA provides the Emergency Ride Home program, which offers commuter four free or low cost rides home per year.

Where’s the Program Headed?

-  TBARTA plans to work with the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), as well as area Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) on developing innovative “selling” strategies for qualified transportation fringe benefits and make company introductions to the program.
-  Research shows that toll-free access for vanpools incentivizes drivers to make the switch from driving alone. TBARTA plans to work with area transportation agencies and the Florida Department of Transportation to ensure vanpool access is included for toll-lanes both existing and planned.

¹National Transit Summaries and Trends, National Transit Database, 2015 Report Year, Federal Transit Administration

²2015 Florida Transit Handbook, Florida Department of Transportation