



## A Comparison Between Public and Private Vanpools

Public Vanpools provide options not always found in private vanpool fleets. Public Vanpools provide benefits to local residents as well as the cities they travel to. The options provide the ability to:

- serve residents of all social-economic levels
- lower rider costs by leveraging State and Federal grant funds
- generate additional funds for local transit agencies
- track and report trips to assist Counties in complying with AB32 and SB276

The following compares features of public and private vanpool operations:

<u>Feature</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>
30 day notice prior to returning van	Yes	No
Credit check and credit card	Yes	No
24/7 support with spare van	No	Yes
Routine maintenance and service performed on site	No	Yes
On board computer reports distance and rider count	No	Yes
Fuel Card provided as part of billing structure	No	Yes
GPS tracking and monitoring of all vehicles and drivers	No	Yes
Dash mounted hands-free navigation system	No	Yes
Securing van for extended period, lowering monthly cost	No	Yes
Local staff for connecting vans and riders	No	Yes
Delivery and pick up of vehicle when turned in	No	Yes

### **Explanation of Features:**

#### Requires 30 day notice prior to returning van

Private vanpool providers normally require 30 days notice before turning in the van. This requirement discourages some from starting a vanpool out of fear that the riders will suddenly quit, leaving the main driver with the liability for the full cost. Public Vanpools agencies will prorate the bill to the last day the van is used and only for the miles used. This avoids a huge bill if vanpool riders suddenly stop riding. Public vanpools can also provide more flexibility in paying over a longer period of time if necessary.

### Requires credit check and credit card

Private vanpool providers normally require sufficient credit to charge the last month's vehicle costs should it become necessary. Those who do not meet the credit requirements may be unable to secure a van. This often restricts options for those who may have the greatest need for a van. Public vanpools do not require a credit check, deposit or a credit card on file. Anyone with a valid state issued driver's license and a safe driving record can be a vanpool driver.

### Provides 24/7 support with spare van

The Public Vanpool Staff is available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week to provide minor repairs from headlight replacement to replacing the van should the need arise.

### Provide routine maintenance on site

Private vanpool users must often take their van in for service and maintenance. Drivers in Public Vanpool vehicles are not required to bring their van in for service. Service is provided to the van through a mobile service provider that performs all service and minor repairs on site, when possible. A spare van is provided in the event the van needs a major repair.

### On board computer reports distance and rider count

The on board computer tracks the vans' location, distance traveled, as well as allowing the group to report the number of passengers in the van real time. This information is then totaled by van and by area for reporting to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) via the NTD (National Transit Database). This reporting results in federal fund generation for medium and large cities. A Public Vanpool traveling to a large metropolitan city, like the City of Fresno, can generate as much as \$25,000 per year per van in federal funds from FTA for FAX (Fresno Area Express).

The ridership data is also sorted by the Public Vanpool's county of origin. The total number of vanpool passenger trips is then reported by the county to CARB (California Air Resource Board) to show a reduction of single vehicle trips and a corresponding drop in the county's Green House Gas (GHG) emissions levels. Legislation (SB 32) requires that counties lower their GHG levels to 1990 levels by 2030. Only vanpool vehicles equipped with the ability to count passenger trips can be used in this effort.

### Fuel Card provided as part of billing structure

Those using a Public Vanpool receive one bill which includes all costs associated with operating the vanpool. The Public Vanpool costs are public making the cost transparent to minimize the chance of overcharging or fraud or misuse of funds as riders are aware of the total van cost. The main driver or the riders pay as a group or individually for the full cost of the van rental, fuel and vanpool related expenses sending payment electronically directly to the Public Vanpool provider.

### GPS and Telematics tracking and monitoring of all vans

The on board telematics software tracks and alerts the main office when routine service is due or if immediate attention is required when a check engine light appears to quickly address the issue or cause. The telematics software also allows tracking of van speed for immediate correction of bad driving behaviors, two-way electronic communication and delivery of weekly or monthly van costs. The vehicle is also equipped with hands free navigation at no additional cost.

### Driver keeps van for extended time, lowering monthly cost

Private Vanpool providers replace their vans every one to three years. Public Vanpool users have the option of keeping their older van as long as the van continues to be safe to drive. The longer use results in savings that are passed on to those using the van as the lease drops from the cost of the vanpool once the lease is paid off.

### Local staff connects vans and riders

The Public Vanpool office provides van and rider matching to help connect those that call the office directly to form or join an already active vanpool group. This also helps current vanpool groups to add additional riders as needed.

### Delivery and pick up of vehicle when turned in

Part of the service provided by Public Vanpool is delivery and pick-up of the van if needed. This helps to alleviate the need to make arrangements for drop off and pickup by the individual(s) authorized to operate the van.

### CalVans Emergency Ride Home Program

An additional benefit for Public Vanpool groups is the ability to call staff anytime of day when the driver or rider misses their ride home. We realize issues at work can be a big inconvenience and getting home should not cause additional difficulties. If the individual or group misses their ride and is unable to make other transportation arrangements, for a nominal fee charged back to the vanpool, Public Vanpool staff will make sure folks get home safely.