



## A Comparison of 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 riders cost 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 vans	No	Yes
Dash mounted hands free phone system	No	Yes
Driver keeps van for extended period, lowering monthly cost	No	Yes
Local website for connecting vans and riders	No	Yes
Deliver van to the driver and pick up van when turned in	No	Yes

### **Explanation of Features:**

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

Private vanpool providers normally require the main driver give 30 day 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 a monthly bill that gets deducted from his or her credit card. Public Vanpools agencies often prorate the bill to the last day the van is used. This avoids the driver being stuck with the bill if vanpool riders suddenly stop riding.

### Requires credit check and credit card

Private vanpool providers normally require that the driver have sufficient credit so that they can collect the last month vehicle rent should it become necessary. Those who have poor or no credit are unable to secure a van. This often shuts out those who may have the greatest need for a van. Someone who goes through a home foreclosure is generally unable to get a van. Public vanpools do not require a credit check. Anyone with a valid license and a safe driving record can be a vanpool driver.

### Provides 24/7 support with spare van

The Public Vanpool Staff are available 24 hours a day 7 days per week to provide minor repairs from headlight replacement to replacing the van should it be necessary. Additional Staff are available should they be needed.

### Provide routine maintenance on site

Private vanpool users must take their van to a service center for service and maintenance. Drivers in Public Vanpool vehicles are not required to bring their van in for service, service is provided to them through a mobile service provider that does all service and minor repairs on site. A spare van is provided in the event the van needs major repair such as brakes or tire replacement.

### On board computer reports distance and rider count

The on board computer tracks the vans location, distance traveled, as well as allowing the driver to report how many passengers are in the van. This information is then totaled by van and by area for reporting into the NTD (National Transit Database) this reporting results in additional funds being generated for medium and large cities. Currently, every vanpool traveling to the City of Fresno generates \$25,000 per year per van in FTA (Federal Transportation Administration) funds for FAX (Fresno Area Express). FAX received \$570,000 in funds FY 11/12.

The ridership data is also sorted by the 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 level. Legislation requires that counties lower their Green House Gas levels to 1990 levels by 2020. 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. With a Private Vanpool the driver has to establish a separate bank account into which all riders payments are placed. The driver then pays for the van rental, fuel and minor expenses from this account. Sending the payments directly to the Public Vanpool provider minimizes the chance of fraud or misuse of funds by someone in the van.

### GPS tracking and monitoring of all vans

The on board GPS tracks and alerts the main office when routine service is due. It reports check engine alerts and describes what caused them. It also allows tracking of speeds, issuing weekly speeding reports via email to all main drivers as well as the main office.

### Dash mounted hands free phone system

Each Public Vanpool has a dash mounted hands free phone system that allows the driver to contact the office, maintenance, the on-call Staff as well as other vanpools.

### 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 van as long as they are safe to drive. The longer use results in savings that are passed on to those using the van.

### Local website for connecting vans and riders

The Public Vanpool office provides van and rider matching through its website. It also helps connect those that call the office directly to a vanpool group.