



Frequently Asked Questions about ShareTheRide

What is it?

'ShareTheRide' is a free, online tool at ValleyMetro.org to help local residents track how much pollution their commute generates or find a carpool partner. Ultimately, ShareTheRide also will allow residents to join a vanpool, map the best bus or light rail route, or find a bike route.

How does the system work?

'ShareTheRide' uses geo-coding technology to plot a commute and find others who are traveling the same route at the same times of day. First-time users register at www.ValleyMetro.org, enter their commute points (as an address or intersection), define their travel schedule and personal preferences. Then the system returns potential carpool partners who have similar preferences and commutes. Individuals contact one another via e-mail within the system to determine if they want to travel together. It also can be used to log different forms of transportation on an online calendar and see how much pollution was saved or produced. One can also track commutes in ShareTheRide for reimbursement or credit from their employer.

What happens to personal information?

A registrant's information stays active in the system and is shared with other commuters who match their preferences. Individuals can opt to appear only to their colleagues working at the same company, or they can be included in broader search results. Individuals also can choose to not appear in any searches by those seeking a commuting partner. Those who are especially concerned about personal privacy can enter an intersection instead of a street address to protect their exact work or home location.

Information never is shared externally or sold. Valley Metro can view how many people are actively looking for a partner and how many have found matches.

What if I don't find a match?

'ShareTheRide' began as a beta test in April 2009 and is now open to all public users. It will take time for registrants to accumulate in the system, so don't give up if you are not immediately successful. Review your search criteria and consider adjusting your route to find new options.

How does this help air pollution?

The purpose of a ride-matching and mapping tool like 'ShareTheRide' is to reduce vehicle emissions by reducing total vehicles on the road.

Approximately one pound of air pollution is generated every 45 miles driven. Vehicle emissions create ground-level ozone pollution, which aggravates breathing and can damage lungs. The colorless, odorless gas accumulates on extremely hot days in Arizona from April through September. Sharing the ride and driving less during Arizona summers can help prevent air quality from worsening.