

# Travel Reduction Program

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is the role of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) in the Travel Reduction Program (TRP)?

Valley Metro is often asked by Transportation Coordinators (TCs) if their employees who drive hybrid, electric, or bio-diesel vehicles qualify for their company's travel reduction incentives. Are AFVs considered alternative modes of transportation? The answer? Maybe.

- Employers may choose to allow their employees who commute alone in AFVs to enter alternative mode user (AMU) prize drawings. Consider the following in making the best decision for your organization.
- People who drive AFVs made the effort to buy a "greener" car and they probably paid more for it. However, if commuting alone, they are contributing to congestion.
- In many cases, driving alone is easier and more convenient than coordinating a carpool or bicycling to work. For example, if Sally bicycles to work twice a week and enters a prize drawing eight times a month, but Sue drives alone in a hybrid 22 times a month and receives 22 chances, that may alienate Sally. If you allow AFV drivers to enter prize drawings, you may want to limit the number of entries allowed.

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

- Many AFVs use gasoline or some other fuel such as compressed natural gas. Also, hybrids run on electricity only part of the time. Documentation can be cumbersome.
- We do not recommend allowing a drive-alone AFV driver to use carpool parking spaces, unless they have a "blue sky" license plate. Hybrid drivers with "blue sky" license plates can also use the high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane and carpool parking.



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