



UTAH TRANSIT AUTHORITY VANPOOL OPERATIONS MANUAL



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SECTION 1: UTA VANPOOL PROGRAM

Introduction

Welcome to the Utah Transit Authority “UTA” Vanpool Program. Vanpools are a service provided by the UTA Rideshare Department which was formed to assist businesses, schools and individuals in the community find and use alternate modes of transportation. Our mission is ***to educate the community concerning alternative transportation options and promote those options that reduce single occupancy vehicle usage, improve mobility, enhance air quality, and conserve energy.***

The Rideshare Department is a non-profit organization focused on reducing commuter trips using carpool matching services, the vanpool program, UTA’s transit pass programs and promoting teleworking, alternative work schedule options and the use of the Internal Revenue Service “IRS” pre-tax transit benefit. The program offers a free online commuter database to assist individuals with ride matching services for carpool, vanpool, and bicycling options. Today, UTA supports the operations of approximately 400 vanpools each month and over 3,500 vanpool participants who travel over 50 million passenger miles a year.

This Vanpool Operations Manual is designed to provide you with important information regarding the vanpool program. This includes participant’s roles and responsibilities, how to report your monthly ridership, how to pay your monthly vanpool fares, how to properly maintain your vehicle and how to better ensure your vanpool operates as smoothly and safely as possible.

Civil Rights Act of 1964

In accordance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, UTA is committed to ensure to the best of its ability that no person is subjected to discrimination in the conduct of the vanpool program based on race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, or disability in any manner contrary to applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, service animals are welcome on board the vanpool vehicles. Service animals include guide dogs, signal dogs, and other animals trained to work or perform tasks for persons with disabilities. Pets, however, must be in a cage or container, and are the responsibility of their owner. Any cleaning of the vehicle due to the transportation of a pet will be the sole responsibility of the owner. UTA may collect cleaning charges from the pet owner.

Natural Disaster or Civil Emergency

In the event of public emergency such as a natural disaster or Homeland Security alert, UTA reserves the right to recall, restrict or re-assign all UTA vehicles, including vehicles used in the vanpool program. Any such decision will be dictated by the situation, but the priority will always be safe vehicle operations during

such emergencies. Your vanpool group will not be responsible for vehicle operational costs incurred from such an event.

Safety

Safety is a core value and our highest priority. Our employees work hard every day with a goal of keeping you and all our passengers safe. UTA has four departments focused on maintaining safe transit services. These departments include UTA Police, Safety, Emergency Management and Security. Each department oversees different elements of safety. You can learn more about these departments and missions by visiting <https://www.rideuta.com/Rider-Info/Public-Safety>.

Report a Safety Concern or Crime

See Something? Say Something! If you see a safety concern, crime, or another matter you feel needs an immediate UTA Police response, please report it:

- Call 9-1-1—if there is an emergency, it is best to call 9-1-1
- Call UTA Police Dispatch—to reach UTA Police by phone, call 801-287-3937 (801-287-EYES)
- Text us—send text messages to UTA police at 274-637 (CRIMES). Start your message with UTATIP and then include your message.

If your concern is not urgent, you can report them by visiting <https://www.rideuta.com/Rider-Info/Public-Safety> and click on the Report a Safety Concern button.

SECTION 2: UTA SUPPORT STAFF

Contact Information

UTA's Rideshare Department is the workgroup that manages and supports the Vanpool Program. Our normal business hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. You may contact your Vanpool Support Specialist, Maintenance Support Specialist, or the Vanpool Accountant for any questions you may have.

Some support staff may work alternative work hours and you should contact your support specialist in accordance with their work hours. All UTA Rideshare staff contact information can be located online under the **My Vanpool Account** section at: <https://www.rideuta.com/Services/Vanpool>.

Online Resources

The following resources can be located online under the **My Vanpool Account** section at: <https://www.rideuta.com/Services/Vanpool>.

- Applications, agreements, and ridership forms
- General vanpool information
- Monthly ridership reporting, forms, and instructions
- Vanpool and vehicle safety information
- Vehicle maintenance information and requirements

UTA Roles and Responsibilities

UTA's support staff is available to assist in the safe operations of your vanpool. You may contact a member of UTA's support staff depending on your specific needs.

Vanpool Support Specialist:

- Supports the vanpool group
- Maintains vanpool records
- Reviews and approves Volunteer Driver Applications
- Assists in finding new participants
- Helps new participants establish online payment accounts
- Supports basic accounting questions
- Assists the bookkeeper with monthly ridership reporting
- Conducts annual motor vehicle records review for all approved volunteer drivers
- Supports maintenance inquiries, safety, and Inspection Information
- Provides yearly vehicle registration
- Manages vanpool vehicle records
-

Vanpool Maintenance Specialist:

- Supports maintenance concerns, questions, or issues
- Assists in vehicle rotation when necessary
- Manages the yearly safety and emissions testing
- Manages the safety & warranty recalls

Rideshare Accountant:

- Manages the monthly billing process and procedures
- Resolves fuel card issues
- Handles accounting questions, concerns, or other billing issues

Vanpool Data & Security Administrator:

- Monitors vanpool driving behavior via onboard technology
- Notifies vanpools of exceptions to desired driving behavior
- Investigates complaints against vanpools by the public

SECTION 3: VANPOOL PARTICIPANTS AND GROUPS

Vanpool Roles and Responsibilities

There are several important roles and responsibilities required to ensure the safe and successful operation of your vanpool. Your vanpool group is responsible for determining who will assume one or more of these vanpool roles.

Backup Volunteer Driver:

- Responsible for operating the vehicle when the primary volunteer driver is unavailable
- Accepts all primary driver responsibilities when acting in this role

Bookkeeper:

- Responsible for tracking the daily ridership
- Responsible for submitting the online monthly ridership report

Participant:

- Pays their monthly fares on time
- Arrives at the pick-up points on time
- Responsible for keeping the vehicle in a clean and presentable condition
- Helps to maintain a positive and safe commuting experience
- Notifies the driver regarding absences (planned and unplanned)
- Notify your UTA Vanpool Support Specialist at least 15 days prior to leaving the vanpool

Point of Contact for the Vanpool:

- The official representative of your Vanpool to UTA
- Responsible for receiving requests to join the vanpool
- Notifies UTA when a participant leaves the vanpool
- Provides important information to current and potential participants and UTA support staff

Primary Volunteer Driver:

- Responsible for the daily driving of the vehicle
- Conducts daily vehicle inspections
- Ensures the vehicle is safety operated and maintained according to UTA requirements
- Coordinates all vehicle fueling, maintenance, service, and cleaning
- When not commuting, coordinate with the backup volunteer driver so the van can continue to operate on regularly scheduled workdays

Group Dynamics

It is important to foster good group dynamics and cohesion to ensure longevity and success among all vanpool participants. Your success depends upon:

- Healthy group dynamics

- Open communication
- Good operating rules which are followed by all participants
- Response to complaints and resolving issues
- Retaining and recruiting participants, bookkeepers, and drivers

Operating Rules

Vanpool groups should establish their own operating rules and discuss potential problems in advance, as well as other concerns or issues the group feels necessary. After discussion, the group should develop possible solutions to concerns by majority vote and incorporate them into group operating rules. However, please note that no operating rule may contradict any UTA vanpool operations policy.

Minimum Required Participants

To establish and maintain a vanpool, UTA requires a minimum number of 4 participants. If your vehicle is not full, your vanpool group must make all reasonable efforts to accommodate new or additional participants who commute within your established route and schedule.

Any vanpool that falls below the minimum required participants must locate a new participant or return their vehicle to UTA. Your Vanpool Support Specialist is available to assist in finding new or additional participants. At its sole discretion, UTA may determine to allow vanpools below the minimum required participants to continue operating for an extended period.

Also note that the IRS defines a commuter highway vehicle as “any highway vehicle that seats at least 6 adults (not including the driver). In addition, you must reasonably expect that at least 80% of the vehicle mileage will be for transporting employees between their homes and workplace with employees occupying at least one-half the vehicle's seats (not including the driver's).” This may influence those that rely on a Federal Transit Benefit (For more information regarding the Federal Transit Benefit, please click <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p15b.pdf> and scroll down to the section titled 'Transportation (Commuting) Benefit.'

Guaranteed Ride Home Program

Your vanpool group may be eligible for UTA's Guaranteed Ride Home Program (GRH). In the event of an emergency, UTA will provide a GRH for eligible participants who cannot take their established scheduled vanpool trip. In the event of an emergency, eligible participants must contact UTA's Customer Service Department at **801-RIDE-UTA**. UTA, at its expense, will provide alternative transportation from the participants business to the participant's home or other reasonable location where an immediate family member requiring emergency help is located. Participants are eligible for up to six (6) GRH in any calendar year.

SECTION 4: RIDERSHIP REPORTING

Monthly Ridership Reporting

All vanpools are required to submit monthly ridership reporting to UTA no later than the 5th of the month for the previous month's ridership. Ridership reports should be completed by the bookkeeper who is responsible for tracking the daily ridership.

Submitting your Monthly Ridership:

1. Log in to utarideshare.com
2. Select **New Monthly Report**, then the month and year for which you will be reporting. Click **Open**
 - a. If the report has already been opened, select **Find Monthly Report**, then select the month you want to edit
3. On the **Commute** tab if the vehicle isn't already listed in the report search by entering the vehicle # (5 digits) in the **Vehicle ID** field, Click **Enter**, when the search results return the description of the van you want then click **Select** to add the vehicle to the report
 - a. Enter the start and end days and odometer readings by vehicle used. Click **Save**
 - b. If more than one vehicle was used for the month, repeat steps 2 and 3 for each vehicle
4. On **Non-Commute** tab if a vehicle was used for a personal or maintenance trip, select **Add Trip** and enter start and end days and odometer readings by trip
 - a. If a vehicle used is missing from **Vehicles assigned this month**, return to the Commute tab, and add that vehicle
 - b. Return to the Non-Commute tab to enter the trip information. Click **Save**
5. On **Ridership** tab edit the Ride Code per each day per participant as needed. Click **Save**
 - a. In the collective report only the total number of trips is submitted to the National Transit Database, the individual names of vanpool participants are not shared
6. On **Submit** tab Click **Submit**
7. To logout and/or change your password, click on Account then **Logout**

SECTION 5: VANPOOL FARES AND PAYMENTS

Vanpool Fares

Vanpool fares are based upon the total miles the vehicle travels each month. Current vanpool fares can be located online under the **My Vanpool Billing** section at: <https://www.rideuta.com/Services/Vanpool>. Vanpool fares are evaluated by UTA on a quarterly basis and may be adjusted if required to reflect changes in operating costs. If UTA determines to adjust vanpool fares, 30 days' advance notice will be provided via email to the email address provided to UTA.

Corporate Fares:

If your organization sponsors and pays for your vanpool, UTA will bill your sponsoring organization based upon the number of miles the vehicle travels each month. No individual payment is required, and all fares are pre-paid for the upcoming month. Monthly fares are due in full within 30 days of the date of invoice.

Individual Fares:

Individual fares to participate on a UTA vanpool are based upon the number of miles the vehicle travels each month. Monthly fares are based upon a fixed rate per seat. (Fare Example A). All fares are pre-paid for the upcoming month. Monthly fares are due in full by the 5th day of each month.

Fare Example A: Individual Fare Based Upon a Fixed Rate per Seat

All participants in the vanpool pay the same monthly fare based upon their monthly miles. If you add a new participant or lose a participant your monthly fare will not change.

Vanpool Monthly Miles: 750
Monthly Participant Fare: \$82.00

Employer Provided Fare Subsidies:

Some vanpool participants receive a vanpool payment subsidy provided by their sponsoring organization which pays for a portion of their monthly vanpool fares (e.g., Commuter Checks, WageWorks, NBS, etc.).

If you receive a partial subsidy, you are responsible for the monthly fare difference.

Federal Employee Fares:

Some vanpool participants that work for the Federal government may receive the Federal Transit Benefit (FTB) which pays for all or a portion of their monthly vanpool fares. **Please understand that we do not verify or qualify you for this benefit. It is your responsibility to make your payments on time regardless of the availability of any benefit you desire to use for payment. It is also your responsibility to ensure payment is made before the monthly benefit expires. Please consult your Transit Benefit Coordinator at your place of employment if you have any questions regarding your FTB.**

Monthly Vanpool Payments

Individual monthly payments are pre-paid for the upcoming month. Billing invoices are available on or around the 25th day of each month for the upcoming month's fares. **All payments are due in full by the 5th day of each month** and no refunds will be provided for a participant's absence or vacation.

Online Payment System:

UTA uses an online payment system for all individual participants' billing. Each new vanpool participant will receive a welcome email.

Using the online payment system you can:

- Set up reoccurring payments
- View monthly invoices
- View billing and payment history

First Time User Set Up Instructions:

1. Go to [.utarideshare.com](http://utarideshare.com) and log in using your email address as the username.
2. Select the “Vanpool Payment” tab.
3. Select your payment options and pay your bill

Late Payments:

UTA will charge a one percent (1%) per month late fee on participant balances which remain unpaid after the 5th day of each month. Failure to make the full payment may result in suspension or termination of a participant’s ridership on the vanpool. UTA will terminate the participant’s agreement for any unpaid balance of sixty days or more unless the participant has entered, and follows, a Payment Plan Agreement.

UTA may suspend fuel card privileges for any vanpool that has multiple participants with an overdue balance until the balance is paid in full. Fuel purchases made after the suspension are not eligible for reimbursement by UTA.

Vanpool Roster Changes:

To ensure all participants in the vanpool are billed correctly, **any participant or roster changes are required to be reported to your Vanpool Support Specialist by the 15th day of each month.** Changes to the roster reported after the 15th day of each month will not be reflected until the following month’s billing cycle.

Federal Transit Benefit:

Please note **UTA does not manage the Federal Benefit Card and cannot setup or make changes to your monthly benefit.** If you have questions regarding your Federal Benefit Card, please contact your organization’s Transit Benefit Manager.

If you are a federal employee and use a Federal Benefit Card, please contact your employer’s Transit Benefit Manager to receive an increase or decrease to your benefit according to your vanpool fare as necessary. You will be billed for the total amount due which may include any previously owed amounts. If there are insufficient funds on your card, the payment will be rejected and you will have to pay your monthly fare by some other means.

Departing Participants:

Departing participants must notify the vanpool point of contact and provide UTA 15 days advanced notice prior to departure from the vanpool program. Participants who fail to provide advanced notice will be billed for vanpool services until such notification is received.

For any questions about your monthly billing, please reach out to the Rideshare Accountant at 801-287-2271 or via email at vanpoolbilling@rideuta.com.

SECTION 6: VANPOOL VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Vanpool Volunteer Drivers

Each vanpool group is required to designate a minimum of two (2) participants to be a volunteer driver and backup volunteer driver. All volunteer drivers must meet UTA driver eligibility requirements and be approved by UTA.

Volunteer Driver Eligibility Requirements:

All volunteer drivers and volunteer driver applicants in the UTA vanpool program must meet the minimum driver eligibility criteria to be approved by UTA to operate a UTA vehicle:

1. Submit a vanpool volunteer driver application form
2. Successfully complete UTA's required driver training program or equivalent
3. Be at least 21 years of age
4. Have a current and unrestricted driver's license
5. Have driven in the United States for at least five (5) years
6. Have no more than two (2) moving violations in the past three (3) years
7. Have no more than one (1) at fault accident in the past three (3) years

Volunteer Driver Ineligibility:

Participants in the vanpool program with any of the following conditions will be considered ineligible to operate a UTA vehicle:

1. The suspension or revocation of a driver's license within the past five (5) years
2. A conviction within the past ten (10) years for reckless driving, hit and run, leaving the scene of an accident, driving under the influence "DUI", driving while intoxicated "DWI", felony, or concurrent violations of lane changing
3. A medical condition or use of prescription medication that impairs a driver's ability to operate a vehicle safely
4. A person who has filed a Certificate of Financial Responsibility (SR-22) due to his or her personal driving record
5. A person with over 200 points according to UTA's point system adopted from the Utah Department of Public Safety (See Driver Point Table below)

Volunteer Drivers must notify UTA within two (2) business days if they no longer meet the volunteer driver criteria and immediately stop operating the vehicle.

Driver Background Check:

UTA will confirm driver eligibility by reviewing the applicant's Motor Vehicle Record "MVR" and driving history through the Utah Department of Public Safety. Out-of-state drivers are required to request and submit a current copy of their MVR as part of the application process. Thereafter, they must submit an annual MVR on the month following the driver's date of birth.

Driver Training Program:

All volunteer driver applicants must successfully complete UTA’s driver training program and all testing requirements. The driver training program will be provided by UTA and is accessible online. Once the volunteer driver applicant has completed the driver training program and UTA receives confirmation of successful completion, UTA will notify the volunteer driver applicant they are eligible to operate a UTA vehicle. Applicants who do not fully complete the training will not be authorized to operate a UTA vehicle. UTA reserves the right to waive the training requirement for those holding a qualifying commercial license and a good driving record (as determined by UTA).

Annual Driver Eligibility:

UTA will request and review a copy of MVRs for drivers with Utah issued drivers’ licenses on a monthly basis to confirm annual eligibility. Out-of-state drivers must submit an annual MVR to UTA on the month following the driver’s birthday.

Driver Recertification Training Program:

All volunteer drivers must participate in UTA’s driver recertification training program every five (5) years. Failure to complete the driver recertification program will result in the suspension or revocation of driving privileges.

Citations:

Drivers are responsible for resolving any citations resulting from the operation, parking, or towing of a UTA vehicle.

Complaints:

UTA’s Data & Security Administrator receives comments and complaints from the general public regarding UTA services including UTA Vanpool vehicles and drivers. UTA takes all customer complaints seriously and any complaint regarding your vehicle will be documented and tracked regardless of fault or lack thereof. If a pattern of complaints develop, UTA may address driver behavior through several remedial actions including reviewing motor vehicle records, driver re-training, use of a global positioning system, GPS monitoring device on the vehicle, or the revocation of a driver’s privileges.

Driver Point System:

VIOLATION LIST	Points	Number of years violation stays on record
Complaint	10	2
Speeding 1-10 M.P.H Over	35	3
Improper Lane Change	40	3
Other Moving Violations	40	3
Careless/Negligent Driving	50	3
Driving Conditions (too fast or too slow for conditions)	50	3

Failure to Obey... (Stop sign, red light, etc.)	50	3
Impeding Traffic (too slow, etc.)	50	3
Improper... (Backing, passing, turn, etc.)	50	3
Unsafe Operation	50	3
Speeding 11-20 M.P.H Over	55	3
Failure to Obey Crossing Guard	60	3
Failure to Yield	60	3
Following Too Close	60	3
Improper/Erratic	60	3
Wrong Way/Wrong Side	60	3
Speeding 21 M.P.H Over	75	3
DUI_DWI – Automatic 10 Year Suspension	201	10
Reckless Driving – Automatic 5 Year Suspension	201	5
Racing/ Exhibition – Automatic 5 Year Suspension	201	5
Use of a Cellular Device – Automatic 1 Year Suspension	201	3

SECTION 7: VEHICLES

Use of the Vehicle

It is important that you only use and operate your vehicle in accordance with UTA policy as defined below. Proper use of the vehicle will reduce the wear and tear on your vehicle and reduces the costs of the vanpool program. Improper use may result in additional participant costs, suspension, or termination from the vanpool program.

Commuter Miles:

Commuter miles (or revenue miles) are the daily commute miles your vanpool group is allowed to travel given the monthly fixed rate paid by the vanpool group. Commuter miles may vary with the number of operating days in the month.

Non-Commuter Miles:

Non-commuter miles (or non-revenue miles) are miles used for maintenance requirements and personal use of the vehicle as defined below.

Excess Miles:

When the commuter miles exceed the total allowable miles, a fee may be assessed. Any fee assessed for excess miles will be calculated at the IRS standard mileage rate plus the calculated costs per mile rate per the currently monthly fares. To ensure your vanpool does not exceed the total allowable miles, it is important to identify the best mileage bracket for your vanpool group's needs.

Use of the Vehicle:

- Volunteer Drivers shall operate the vehicle in accordance with all federal, state, and local traffic laws and ordinances
- Volunteer Drivers shall only use the vehicle for transporting UTA vanpool participants to and from the vanpool's established destination, picking up and discharging participants in accordance with mutually established routes and schedules (see Personal Use of the Vehicle for exceptions)
- Volunteer Drivers shall only operate the vehicle on hard surfaced streets, highways and maintained roads and driveways
- Volunteer Drivers shall observe width and height clearance requirements for the vehicle (i.e., bridges, carwash, drive thru, etc.)

Prohibited Use of the Vehicle:

- Volunteer Drivers may not transport individuals who are not part of the vanpool program
- Volunteer Drivers may not use the vehicle for commercial purposes
- Volunteer Drivers may not use the vehicle for hauling garbage, debris, excessive loads, pulling trailers, boats, etc.
- Volunteer Drivers may not operate the vehicle off-road, including on beaches and in fields
- Volunteer Drivers may not operate the vehicle on bridges or roads that prohibit vehicles with weight loads more than four (4) tons
- Volunteer Drivers or participants may not remove any seats or seatbelts in the vehicle
- Volunteer Drivers and participants shall not allow accessories, including window or bumper stickers, or additional equipment to be added to or removed from the vehicle without prior UTA approval

Personal Use of the Vehicle:

Each vanpool group receives a **maximum of 50 personal miles per month**. These miles are for the use of approved volunteer drivers only and may not be accumulated over time. These miles must be reported separately on the monthly ridership report. Primary drivers should allow backup drivers reasonable access to the vehicle for personal use as defined.

Volunteer Drivers may use personal miles for:

- Fueling the vehicle when stopping along the vanpool's established route is not convenient
- Taking UTA vanpool participants to lunch, work events, etc.
- A personal trip, for example, going to the grocery store, running an errand, etc. which does not conflict with the Use of the Vehicle and Prohibited Use of the Vehicle as defined

Parking:

UTA prefers an approved volunteer driver park the vehicle at his or her place of residence. Vehicles may also be parked at park and ride lots owned by UTA, the Utah Department of Transportation "UDOT", counties, cities and in some cases in lots where UTA or the vanpool group has an agreement with a church or other business (please confirm these locations with your Vanpool Support Specialist before using the

lot). Vanpool participants are solely responsible for the payment of any parking citations or the inability to use a vanpool because of the location in which it was parked.

Fueling Your Vehicle

UTA will provide each vehicle with one (1) **Fuel Card** for fueling UTA vehicles at most gas stations. **The card is to remain in the van**, except when fueling the UTA van. Volunteer drivers are assigned a unique personal identification number “PIN” for fueling purposes and should safely secure their pin number. The PIN number should also be kept secure and NEVER with the card. ***You are personally responsible for your pin number.***

If the primary driver will not be driving (due to vacation, sick, etc.), the backup driver will use their own pin number when fueling the van.

Fuel Card Instructions (Steps may differ at each fueling location):

1. Slide or insert the card
2. Input your vehicles odometer reading
3. Enter your PIN number

Note: If using a service loaner vehicle, you will enter the loaner vehicle information when fueling. Each service loaner vehicle will have its own fuel card.

Fuel Card Problems:

After three unsuccessful attempts to swipe the card, the card will be locked. **If the card does not work the first time you swipe at the pump, take the card to the station attendant and the attendant will process the transaction.** If you are experiencing problems with your fuel card or your fuel card is lost or stolen, please contact the Rideshare Accountant immediately.

Fuel Reimbursements:

All fuel for the vehicle (regularly operated vehicles and service loaner vehicles) should be purchased using the vehicle’s assigned fuel card at participating Voyager accepted locations. In the event your fuel card does not work, cash or a personal credit card should be used by the vanpool group, limited to \$100.00 unless authorization is given by a member of the Vanpool administration.

To receive reimbursement for your fuel purchase you must complete the **Vanpool Fuel Reimbursement Form** located online under the **My Vanpool Account** section at: <https://www.rideuta.com/Services/Vanpool>. The completed form along with a copy of the receipt must be included in your reimbursement request and submitted to our Rideshare Accountant. Vanpool groups who have had their fuel cards suspended by UTA for non-payment will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Insurance

Effective September 1, 2021, UTA shall fulfill its Utah Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility obligations for the Vanpool Vehicle in the Vanpool program through a combination of self-insurance and traditional/excess insurance for the following amounts:

Automobile Liability - \$4,000,000 per accident

\$25,000 per person/\$500,000 per accident for Uninsured Motorist coverage

\$1,000 for Under Insured Motorist coverage

\$3,000 PIP/No-fault coverage included.

UTA is a governmental entity and is covered under the provisions of the Utah Governmental Immunity Act as set forth in U.C.A. §63-30-1, *et. seq.*, and the limits of liability therein described. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to constitute a waiver of any defense, damage limitation, procedural requirement or other protection provided by the Utah Governmental Immunity Act.

UTA's Declaration of Policy Statement Regarding Uninsured Motorist and Underinsured Motorist Coverage found at <https://www.rideuta.com/doing-business/insurance-claims>

Organizations that sponsor a vanpool may choose at their expense to provide supplemental insurance.

Only approved volunteer drivers are insured under UTA's general automobile liability policy. Anyone who operates the vehicle without UTA authorization, except in an emergency, will not be insured and could be held personally liable for any incident or accident while operating the vehicle.

UTA cannot guarantee the driver's own personal automobile insurance will not be implicated in the event of an accident or loss involving a Vanpool vehicle.

Registration and Proof of Insurance

UTA will provide registration and proof of insurance documentation for your vehicle which must remain in the vehicle at all times. The vanpool group will be responsible for ensuring the safety inspection and emission tests are performed at the request of the UTA maintenance staff.

Maintenance Supplies

Approved maintenance vendors will provide basic maintenance supplies, top off fluids, change wiper blades or replace burned out lights on your vehicle at no cost to you. UTA will provide ice scrapers and other safety supplies upon request. Participants should make all reasonable efforts to first obtain vehicle maintenance supplies from an approved maintenance vendor or from UTA. A list of approved maintenance vendors can be located online under the **My Vanpool Account** section at: <https://www.rideuta.com/Services/Vanpool>.

In the event you are unable to obtain any maintenance supplies from an approved maintenance vendor or UTA, you may purchase such supplies with advanced UTA approval using cash or a personal credit card. To receive reimbursement, you must complete the **Miscellaneous Vehicle Supply Reimbursement Form** which can be located online under the **My Vanpool Account** section at: <https://www.rideuta.com/Services/Vanpool>. The completed form along with a copy of the receipt must be included in your reimbursement request and submitted to our Rideshare Accountant.

Vehicle Cleanliness

The appearance of the vehicle is important; it affects your passengers' comfort and satisfaction. A well-kept vehicle is more likely to attract new riders and to create a favorable impression with the general public.

All participants on your vanpool should assist in maintaining a clean vehicle. Make sure that interior of the vehicle is cleaned regularly, free of debris, garbage is removed daily, and spills are cleaned up immediately. Please provide a litterbag and a place to store small articles. We also recommend regularly sanitizing the vehicle's interior.

Exterior Washes:

Each vanpool group is approved one exterior wash of their vehicle once per month using their **US Bank Voyager Fuel Card** at any gas station that accepts the Voyager Fuel Card. Carwashes are limited to \$12.00 per month. If you feel you need an exception to the approved wash price and number of washes, please contact the Vanpool Maintenance Supervisor to see if you qualify for an exception.

Tobacco Products

UTA prohibits the use of all tobacco products on UTA property and in UTA vehicles. At no time shall vanpool participants use tobacco products including cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, chewing tobacco or any other products containing tobacco while in a UTA vehicle.

Additional Information

UTA offers other services which can enhance your commuting experience. Please contact your Vanpool Support Specialist or Vanpool maintenance Specialist with any questions you may have.

Vehicle Keys:

UTA will provide up to four (4) keys per vehicle. Additional keys can be made at the group's expense. The same number of keys issued by UTA should be returned with the vehicle at the end of the agreement. In the event all four keys are not returned, the group may be charged up to \$300 per key depending on the key replacement cost.

Vehicle Modifications:

Only UTA approved vehicle accessories are allowed to be added to the vehicle. Participants may not make any modifications to a vehicle without prior approval from UTA.

Bike Racks:

Upon request, UTA will provide a bike rack at no cost to vanpool groups. Bike racks must be installed and used according to manufacturer specifications and all bikes must be properly secured. All reasonable care should be taken to ensure bike racks remain in good operating condition. Bike racks should be returned to UTA if they are no longer in use or at the end of the vanpool group's agreement. Failure to maintain or return bike racks will result in a fee being assessed to the vanpool group. Vanpools transport bicycles on a UTA provided bike rack at their own risk. UTA is not responsible for any damage or theft of bicycles being stored or transported on a UTA provided bike rack.

Vehicle WI-FI:

At the request of the vanpool group, UTA will provide a WI-FI service for your vehicle at an additional monthly fee. Adding vehicle WI-FI is a great way to improve your commuting experience and some organizations will count your commute time as work time. Please contact your Vanpool Support Specialist for further information regarding vehicle WI-FI.

Tire Chains:

UTA vehicles do not come equipped with tire chains unless the Vanpool route requires tire chains. In the event tire chains are needed, UTA does not install the tire chains, nor does UTA assume any liability for any damage done to the vehicle and/or other people or property because of the use of the tire chains. Participants must complete a Vanpool Tire Chain Agreement prior to installing tire chains on the vehicle.

SECTION 8: SAFE OPERATING HABITS

Safety First

The safety of our employees, customers and the public is a core value at UTA and our number one priority. Safety should always be your first priority and all reasonable efforts should be made to ensure your vanpool group and members of the public remain safe when your vehicle is in operation.

Safe Driving Habits

Driving a van is very different from driving a car. A van's increased height, length and weight means you need to be especially careful to ensure the safety and comfort of your passengers. You should read the vehicles owner's manual to understand the operations and safety features of your van. In addition, below are some simple driving habits to help you when operating the van.

DRIVING HABIT #1: Use Seatbelts for Drivers and Passengers Always

1. Drivers and passengers must always use seat belts as required by Utah State law
2. You are responsible for seeing that everyone in the vehicle has and uses their seatbelts
3. Drivers must ensure a passenger is always in the front passenger seat when the vehicle is in operation, unless the driver is operating the vehicle alone

Tips for Drivers:

- Make sure all seatbelts are in good operating order
- Make sure they are available for use
- Make sure they are fastened
- **Make sure a passenger is in the front seat**

OPERATING HABIT #2: Use of Electronic Devices

1. Utah State law and UTA policy prohibit the use of electronic devices while operating a UTA vehicle. Drivers may only use cell phones that are voice activated or connected to a hands-free device when operating a UTA vehicle
2. Drivers may not use cell phones to manually text message, send an instant message or email, dial a phone number, access the internet, view a video, or enter data while operating a UTA vehicle. Using a cell phone while driving, except in an emergency will cause a driver to lose their driving privilege

DRIVING HABIT #3: Give Yourself Plenty of Turning Room

The turning radius required is greater than that of a regular vehicle

The things to remember are:

- Reduce your speed
- Start your turn farther forward into the intersection
- Make a square or wider turn
- Look through the turn

DRIVING HABIT #4: Height and Width Restrictions

1. Always observe the height and width restrictions on the vehicle
2. Be aware of the height and width of your vehicle. Some parking garages may not meet the height requirements for UTA Vehicles

Remember that full size vans:

- Are taller: clearance of at least 7 feet 3 inches
- Are longer than the average car: over 19 feet
- Are wider because of the mirrors on each side: at least 8 feet
- Are harder to see around the corners
- Are heavier with a less stable rear end

DRIVING HABIT #5: Backing Your Vehicle

1. In general, you should avoid backing at all times
2. If you must back up your vehicle, ask your riders to help see other vehicles or obstacles

If you must back-up, remember to:

- Ask for help or use a spotter
- Use your mirrors
- Get out of the vehicle and look at what's behind you
- Use hazard warning flashers

DRIVING HABIT #6: Merging in Traffic

Ask your riders to help see other vehicles or obstacles when merging into traffic

When merging into traffic, remember to:

- Ask for help
- Create space around you by reducing or increasing your speed
- Signal your intentions early
- Use the merge lanes
- Use your mirrors
- Yield the right of way

DRIVING HABIT #7: Use your Mirrors

1. You should always use your mirrors to help see what's happening to the side and rear of the vehicle
2. The vehicle has three mirrors, one inside and one on each side of the left and right front
3. You should be scanning your mirrors every five seconds for traffic, hazards, etc.
4. You should also be scanning the roadway in front of you. Look at least twelve seconds ahead for hazards, traffic, pedestrians or changing road conditions

DRIVING HABIT #8: Securing Your Vehicle

1. Secure your vehicle before you leave it
2. Never leave your vehicle running in gear

You need to make sure that you:

- Park off the street
- Choose a parking space with plenty of room
- When parking on a hill, turn the wheels so the vehicle will roll against the curb
- Secure your vehicle by following these steps:
 - Apply the parking brake first
 - Put the transmission in park
 - Turn the electrical accessories off

- Close all the windows
- Turn the engine off and remove the keys
- Lock all doors
- When leaving a parking space, release the parking brake last

DRIVING HABIT #9: Stopping and Following Distance

Allow longer stopping and following distances. Following distances between you and other vehicles are different in a van. Vehicle speed and weight are two factors that affect your ability to stop in time

Remember:

- The van weighs over 9,000 pounds and takes longer to stop than a car
- Allow a 3-4 second following distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front
- Increase your following distance when driving under adverse conditions or on poor roads

DRIVING HABIT #10: Loading and Unloading Passengers

Always use extreme caution when loading and unloading passengers

When loading and unloading passengers, you should follow these rules:

- Move out of traffic
- Turn on hazard flashers
- Park the vehicle on a level surface and apply emergency brakes
- Never leave the driver's seat with the engine running
- Assist riders, if necessary
- Have riders walk behind the vehicle to get to their cars
- Check if the passenger door is closed
- Check if baggage is under seat
- Wait for riders to get to their cars, if possible

OPERATING HABIT #11: No Idling Policy

1. UTA is committed to protecting the environment as required by law. The purpose of UTA's no idling policy is to reduce air pollution and increase fuel savings by eliminating unnecessary engine idling
2. UTA's no idling policy requires drivers turn the engine off after 10 minutes or less unless the outside temperature is above 85° or below 40°. This allows the operation of the defroster, heater, air conditioner or other equipment to prevent a safety or health concern for passengers

SECTION 9: VEHICLE MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTIONS

Vehicle Inspections

On-time vehicle maintenance is important to prevent costly mechanical repairs, inconvenience, breakdowns, and delays to you and your passengers. Regular vehicle inspections will give you greater confidence in your vehicle and can avoid more serious repairs. Use the vehicles owner's manual for a list of items to inspect, item location and inspection intervals.

There are three inspections that should always be completed prior to use of your vehicle. These include a daily inspection, weekly inspection, and monthly inspection.

Daily Inspection:

You should inspect your vehicle daily before starting it and should be able to answer these questions:

- **Exterior:** Is there any observable body damage? Are there any obstacles in the path of the vehicle?
- **Gauges:** Are they operating correctly?
- **Mirrors:** Are they clean and clear of fog, ice and/or snow? Are there any cracks?
- **Seatbelts:** Are they operational and easily accessible?

While you are driving your daily commute, you'll be able to check the following mechanical equipment:

- **Brakes:** Are the brakes working properly? Is there any squeaking, grinding or other unusual noise?
- **Steering:** Is the power steering operating correctly?
- **Exhaust System and Muffler:** Is the exhaust making noise?
- **Fuel:** Are there any fumes from the fuel system?

Weekly Inspection:

Once per week you should perform the following fluid level inspections:

- **Oil:** Are there any evident leaks in the motor area or on the ground?
- **Coolant/Antifreeze:** Is the coolant level sufficient?
- **Windshield:** Is the windshield fluid sufficient?
- **Power Steering:** Is the power steering fluid level sufficient?
- **Transmission:** Is the transmission fluid level sufficient?
- **Brakes:** Is the brake fluid level sufficient?
- **Tires:** Are the tires the correct pressure? Check when they are cold. Use a tire gauge. Are they worn? Replace tires when the wear bar is showing. Is there any damage, uneven wear, cuts, bulges, exposed ply, or cord?

Monthly Inspection:

Once per month you should conduct a thorough inspection of your vehicle and should be able to answer these questions:

- **Wipers:** Are the blades worn or stiff? Is the wiper arm tight against the windshield?
- **Belts and Hoses:** Are the belts tight? Are the hoses in good repair? Are the clamps tight?
- **Lights:** Are the head and taillights, direction signals and emergency flashers operating properly?
- **Battery:** Are the cables tightly attached to the terminals and free of corrosion?
- **Climate Control:** Are the heater, defroster, and air conditioning working properly?
- **Other Equipment:** Is the spare tire and jack serviceable?

Remember when doing any inspection:

- Be thorough
 - Don't assume anything
 - Don't rush
 - Have someone else check with you
- Don't wait to fix a problem

Scheduled Preventive Maintenance

UTA's goal is to maintain vehicles to avoid or reduce equipment failure and extend the useful life of the vehicle. By performing scheduled preventative maintenance, your vehicle's reliability increases, and your commute is safer. Regular preventative maintenance is based upon miles and time and must be performed as part of your participation in the Vanpool Program. All vehicles are due for service, but the intervals may differ. You are required to ensure vehicles are maintained according to our instruction that is based on manufacturer specifications. The maintenance schedules for your specific vehicle make and model can be found on our website as described in the next section. All maintenance costs are paid for by UTA and included in your monthly vanpool fares.

Maintenance Schedules and Vendors:

UTA provides a preventative maintenance schedule for your vehicle and a variety of approved maintenance vendors throughout the Wasatch Front regional area, where you may take your vehicle to be serviced. Most maintenance vendors maintain a service loaner vehicle which you may use on a first come/first served basis while your primary vehicle is being serviced. If you are unable to use an approved maintenance vendor, you must contact your Vanpool Maintenance Specialist to receive authorization to use a non-approved maintenance vendor.

When your vehicle is due for scheduled preventative maintenance, it is the primary driver's responsibility to have the vehicle serviced with an approved maintenance vendor. A list of maintenance schedules by vehicle model and a list of approved maintenance vendors can be located in the ***Vehicle Maintenance***

page found on our website here: <https://rideuta.com/Services/Vanpool/My-Vanpool-Account/Vehicle-Maintenance> .

If you have any questions regarding scheduled preventative maintenance requirements, please contact your Vanpool Maintenance Specialist.

Unscheduled Maintenance

If you are experiencing a specific problem with your vehicle, the maintenance support staff will decide if repairing the vehicle is appropriate, depending on the age and/or mileage of the vehicle. To get guidance for mechanical failures or undetermined issues contact your Vanpool Maintenance Specialist first.

Service Loaner Vehicles

Service loaner vehicles are provided to vanpool groups on a first come/first served basis by reservation when their primary vehicle is in for service. Service loaner vehicles are used by many different groups, often one right after the other. Special care should be made to keeping the vehicle clean and returning it with a full fuel tank.

Vehicle Breakdowns

A breakdown is any event which disables your vehicle. Common types of breakdowns include flat tires, fluid leaks and dead batteries. Adhering to our inspection and maintenance guidelines as well as following safe driving habits greatly reduces the likelihood of a breakdown. However, in the event of a breakdown you should follow the instructions below.

If a breakdown does occur, first ensure the safety of your passengers and the van. If the breakdown occurs during regular business hours, you can contact a member of the Vanpool Maintenance staff for further instructions. If a breakdown occurs after regular business hours (M-F 7AM-4PM), you may attempt to contact a member of the Vanpool Maintenance staff for further instructions. If you are unable to contact anyone, you will have to make all reasonable efforts to safely resolve the issue. If necessary, you may need to contact a towing company on the approved maintenance vendors list which can be located online under the **My Vanpool Account** section at: <https://www.rideuta.com/Services/Vanpool>.

Flat Tires

In the event you encounter a flat tire, you are responsible for ensuring the tire is changed and/or fixed appropriately. Safety is the top priority and extreme safety precautions should be taken if it is necessary to change a flat tire on the roadside. In an emergency dial 9-1-1. If it is not an emergency, but you feel you are in a location unsafe to change a tire, move the vehicle and call Incident Management (801-887-3800). If you can safely get the vehicle to an authorized maintenance vendor without incurring damage to the vehicle or tire, you should do so.

Changing a Tire:

1. **Find a safe place to pull the vehicle over:** If you're on the freeway, taking the next exit is the safest bet, even if you have to drive on a flat tire. Otherwise, pull as far onto the shoulder as possible.

Don't park in the middle of a curve where approaching cars can't see you. Choose a solid flat spot when jacking up your vehicle. Also, jacking up your vehicle on a hill is unsafe. Be sure to set your parking brake.

Set your triangles or cones according to the 10/100/100 rule. Place the first set ten feet behind the vehicle. The next one 100 feet behind the vehicle and the last one 100 feet behind the second set of triangles or cones.

2. **Turn on your hazard lights.**



CHEVY



FORD



TOYOTA

All tire and jack locations are located at the right rear corner of the rear passenger wall



CHEVY



FORD



TOYOTA

3. **Use the wrench to loosen the lug nuts:** You may need to remove the hubcap. Don't remove the lug nuts at this point; simply loosen them by turning the wrench to the left (counter-clockwise).
4. **Use the jack to lift the vehicle off the ground:** Consult your owner's manual for specific jack locations for your particular vehicle. Use the jack to lift the vehicle until the tire is about two (2) inches off the ground.
5. **Remove the lug nuts and pull the tire off the vehicle:** Make sure to place the lug nuts in a pile that won't get scattered and pull the tire straight toward yourself to remove it from the wheelbase.

6. **Place the spare on the vehicle:** Line up the lug nut posts with the holes in the spare and push the spare all the way onto the wheelbase until it can't go any farther.
7. **Put on the lug nuts:** Ensure the rim is centered on the hub. Tighten the lug nuts enough to secure the wheel onto the hub.
8. **Secure lug nuts:** Lower the vehicle just enough for you to completely secure the lug nuts without the wheel turning. Tighten the lug nuts using a star pattern. Lower the vehicle and remove the jack from underneath the vehicle. For safety, recheck that all the lug nuts are tight.
9. **Put your flat tire and tools back in your vehicle:** Make sure you don't leave anything on the side of the road.
10. **Have your tire repaired at one of our preferred maintenance vendors.**

SECTION 10: INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS

Incidents and Accidents

Incidents and accidents range from minor fender benders without injury to major, sometimes multiple vehicle collisions and possibly serious injuries. Report any incidents involving the vehicle or participants of the vanpool to the Vanpool Maintenance Supervisor within 24 hours. In the event you are involved in a collision or serious accident, do not panic. Act promptly, but calmly. If you can, pause for a couple of seconds to gather your thoughts and decide on the appropriate course of action. Use the following processes in the case of an accident involving a UTA Van. A copy of this section should be placed in the document holder that was issued with each vehicle.

WHAT DO I DO AFTER A VANPOOL ACCIDENT?

1. Safety First

- If the car accident is minor, **move vehicles out of traffic** to a safe place.
- Shift into park, **turn off your vehicle**, and turn on the hazard lights.
- Use cones, warning triangles, or flares for **added safety**, if you have them.

2. Get Help

- **Check for injuries;** call an ambulance when in doubt.
- **Call the police**, even if the accident is minor. A police report can be invaluable to the claim process and help establish who's at fault.

3. Collect Information

- **Gather information** from others involved in the accident.
 - Drivers and passengers: names and contact information.
 - Vehicle descriptions (make, model, year).
 - Driver's license numbers - License plate numbers.
 - Insurance companies and policy numbers.
 - Eyewitnesses: names and contact information.

- Accident scene location and/or address.
- Police officer's name and badge number.
- **Take photos** of all vehicles involved and the accident scene if it is safe to do so.
- **Do not sign** any document unless it's for the police or your insurance agent.
- Be polite, but **don't tell anyone the accident was your fault**, even if you think it was.

4. File a Claim with UTA

- As soon as possible call UTA's Vanpool Maintenance Supervisor – (801) 512-5665
- Fill out the Accident/Incident Reporting Form found on UTA's Vanpool website and return to the Vanpool Maintenance Supervisor (mromero@rideuta.com) within 24 hours (<https://rideuta.com/Services/Vanpool/My-Vanpool-Account/Vanpool-Safety>)

5. Do Not Drive the Van until the accident has been reviewed

Drivers involved in an accident may not continue to operate the van until UTA has reviewed the accident and determined the driver's eligibility. If the van is still operable, but no other approved drivers are available, the driver should return the van to the point of origin or approved vendor location until an approved driver is available.

SECTION 11: SUMMARY

By utilizing the information provided in this Vanpool Operations Manual, participants can better ensure a safe, reliable, and comfortable commute to and from work each day. Vanpool participants and the public's safety is UTA's number one priority. All reasonable efforts should be made by vanpool participants to ensure your vanpool operates in a safe and efficient manner.

The UTA Rideshare Department is dedicated to providing the highest level of customer service, and providing a safe, cost-efficient commute to our dedicated vanpool participants. All participants are welcome to contact a member of the Rideshare support staff for any questions or concerns regarding UTA and the Rideshare and Vanpool Programs.

Thank you for your participation in the Vanpool Program, your efforts contribute to making a better community to the citizens of the State of Utah by improving air quality and reducing traffic congestion.

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