



Here are some tips for starting a carpool and keeping it going:

● **Don't Be Shy!**

Pick up the phone and call some of the people on your Rideshare match list. And don't be surprised if you get a call from someone who also wants to share a ride. Your name may appear on the match lists of other interested people who also want to share a ride, have completed an employee Rideshare match list request form, and who live and work near you.

● **Arrange a Get-Together To Get Acquainted!**

Set up a time to meet over lunch or after work hours to discuss the possibility of ridesharing. Consider pick-up and drop-off times, driver and rider responsibilities, division of expenses, personal preferences such as playing the radio, smoking, eating, air-conditioning, and so on.

If you sense you won't get along with a potential carpooler, trust your instincts. There is no need to push yourself into an uncomfortable situation. If prospects look good, however, work out the details and agree to participate for a trial period. Evaluate the situation as you go along. Later, if you aren't happy or comfortable with it, you can always bow out. Check your Rideshare match list for new partners, or call Baton Rouge Area Commuter Services for further information.

● **Let Democracy Rule!**

Devise and agree on the pool's rules right from the start: (i.e., when payments, if any, are due; who collects them; whom to call in case of an absence or delay; and so on). If something about the carpool bothers you, speak up. When a conflict

arises, take a vote and abide graciously by the results. A successful carpool is the product of fairness multiplied by courtesy and common sense.

● **Take the Responsibility of Driving Seriously!**

Make sure your auto insurance covers everyone in the car. Be vigilant when you are at the wheel. This means no drinking alcohol before the drive home, no speeding, no aggressive driving or other forms of recklessness. Other people's lives are in your hands. Be firm! If there is a careless driver in your pool, don't put him or her behind the wheel. The comfort of the passengers is also in the driver's hands, and simple courtesy dictates that your car is clean when you drive. Trash on the floor and food on the seats are discouraging sights to riders.

● **Follow Protocol!**

Once a pool gets started, punctuality is paramount. A rider who anticipates being late should let the driver or other designated person know as far ahead of time as possible and offer to make his or her own arrangements for that trip. Likewise, a driver who will be late should arrange for someone else in the pool to cover. Another good idea: poolers should agree in advance on an alternative plan in case the driver is unavailable for the trip home. Also, if ridesharing every day won't work for you, try carpooling one or two days a week.

● **Sit Back and Relax!**

For the protection of all, the driver needs to keep his or her eyes on the road. So if you're the rider, don't feel obligated to talk all the time. Instead, doze off, catch up on your reading, or just sit back and enjoy the scenery.

● **Avoid Side Trips!**

Make sure there's enough gas in the car for a round trip. Resist stopping, or asking that stops be made to take care of personal business. These should be handled on your own time.

● **Register Your Carpool!**

Once you have started ridesharing, you will become eligible for many prizes and gifts which are awarded to program participants who rideshare at least two days per week. Contact your Transportation Coordinator at work or call Baton Rouge Area Commuter Services to register.

● **Where Can I Get More Information?**

Let us help you! Baton Rouge Area Commuter Services (BRACS) is dedicated to providing the commuter transportation assistance you may need for your worksite. For details, call us at (225) 344-RIDE (7433) or FAX (225) 383-3804.

*BRACS is a service of the
Capital Region Planning Commission
P.O. Box 3355
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Phone: (225) 383-5203
Fax: (225) 383-3804*

CRPC@ci.baton-rouge.la.us

