



Many area employers have responded to the need to reduce congestion and improve air quality by actively encouraging their employees to seek alternatives to driving alone to work. [Vanpooling is one great alternative!](#)

## ● What Is a Vanpool?

Vanpools are formed among groups of commuters who wish to ride together and share the monthly costs of operating the vanpool. Monthly passenger fares generally cover vehicle costs, maintenance, gasoline, and insurance expenses.

Vanpools provide an attractive transportation alternative for employee groups of six to fifteen individuals who live near one another and who work fairly regular hours. Each vanpool has the flexibility to design its own schedule and route to meet the specific travel needs of the group.

## ● What Resources Are Available to Interested Employees?

Baton Rouge Area Commuter Services (BRACS) provides information and technical assistance in three vanpool program areas: employer-operated vanpools, company-owned or leased vans, and owner-operator vanpools.

BRACS provides assistance to commuter groups interested in forming and operating vanpools anywhere within the following parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge. BRACS offers assistance by helping vanpool groups recruit new riders and by working with employers to encourage the use of incentive programs to boost vanpool use.

## ● What Are the Benefits of Vanpooling?

### Employer Benefits:

- ✓ reduces the need for additional parking
- ✓ increases access to labor markets
- ✓ improves employee morale and employee relations
- ✓ increases productivity, reduces absenteeism and tardiness
- ✓ provides an effective, low-cost recruitment tool
- ✓ enhances employee benefits packages

### Employee Benefits:

- ✓ reduces stress as employees arrive refreshed, relaxed and ready to work
- ✓ increases access to job markets (vanpools often enjoy preferential parking at employer sites)
- ✓ saves money on commute costs such as gasoline, and wear-and-tear on personal vehicles
- ✓ encourages new friendships

### Community Benefits:

- ✓ reduces rush-hour congestion
- ✓ improves air quality
- ✓ reduces dependence on fossil fuels
- ✓ reduces the need for costly new highway construction

## ● How Does Vanpooling Help the Environment?

Vanpooling is one of the best ways to cut smog and help improve the quality of the air. The average car emits a quarter-pound of pollutants each mile it is driven. On a one hundred-mile commute, a single car can release 25 pounds of pollutants into the air -- *air we all breathe*.

## ● How Can My Company Encourage Vanpooling?

Let us help you! Baton Rouge Area Commuter Services (BRACS) is dedicated to providing the commuter transportation assistance you may need to encourage vanpooling at 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*