

The KCATA AdVANtage Vanpool Program



A Program of

The KANSAS CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

October 20, 2008

PROFILE OF KCATA

- **Kansas City Area Transportation Authority**
 - **Transit authority for Greater Kansas City**
- **Public Transit:**
- **67 bus routes serving 12 communities in Missouri & Kansas**
 - **BRT (Bus Rapid Transit)**
 - **Local line-haul routes**
 - **Commuter express**
 - **Neighborhood circulator service (MetroFlex)**
- **Share-A-Fare paratransit**
- **AdVANtage Vanpool**

WHAT IS A VANPOOL?

- **An arrangement in which a group of commuters share the use of a van in traveling to and from work within the same geographical area.**
- **Monthly passenger fares generally cover most of the vehicle operating costs, maintenance, fuel and insurance.**
- **One member of the group assumes driving responsibilities in return for a waiver of the monthly fare**
- **Became prominent in 1970's**

BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO A VANPOOL

- **Sharing a ride to work is less costly than riding alone**
- **A relaxing commute**
- **Less wear-and-tear on your personal vehicle**
- **Meet new people and make new friends**
- **Environmental benefits**

ESTABLISHING ADVANTAGE VANPOOL

- **Program in existence since 1998**
- **Feasibility study (1996)**
 - **Issued RFP for the study**
 - **KCATA and MARC joint partners**
 - **Extension of successful “RideShare” carpool program**
 - **Market analysis**
 - **Studied other vanpool programs across the nation**
 - **Interviewed RideShare carpoolers and business community**
 - **Developed specific strategies for program implementation, funding, staffing, and operation**

PROFILE OF ADVANTAGE VANPOOL

- **Launched program in 1998 with 1 vanpool**
- **Currently operate 27 vanpools with 7 on the waiting list**
 - **Typically serve 200+ commuters on a daily basis**
- **Vanpools designed to:**
 - **1.) Deliver passengers to employment locations along a direct route (chain-trips)**
 - **2.) Transport passengers to a common employer (i.e. KCI Airport, Hallmark)**
- **“Guaranteed Ride Home”**
 - **Via RideShare or cab in case of personal emergency**

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM

- **Any commuter who lives or works in a community with KCATA bus service**
 - **One end of the trip must originate or terminate within such community**
- **One-way distance to work does not exceed 80-miles**
- **Must have at least 6 riders in the vanpool (including driver)**

JOINING AN ADVANTAGE VANPOOL

- **Formal requests to establish or join a managed by Vanpool Coordinator**
- **A group of commuters interested in ridesharing may request an adVANtage van**
- **Individual requests are catalogued and matched**
 - **Vanpool Coordinator attempts to match an individual interested in vanpooling with an existing vanpool or a new vanpool**
- **RideShare carpool program: Option in cases where vanpools cannot be immediately formed**

MONTHLY FARES

- **Fares are based on the commute distance and the number of vanpool passengers**
- **Fares typically cover 85% of direct operating costs**
 - **Fuel**
 - **Maintenance**
 - **Insurance**
- **No fare for the driver**
- **Each passenger must pay the same fare**
 - **Fare is based upon the distance to work from furthest starting point in the vanpool**
- **Monthly Fare = \$100 - \$296 per rider**
 - **Depends on number of riders and trip distance of longest segment**

VANPOOL DRIVER BENEFITS

- **Monthly fare is waived**
- **500 non-commute miles available to the driver each month**

VANPOOL DRIVER REQUIREMENTS

- **Must be at least 25 years of age.**
- **Required to pass a drug screening and physical examination.**
- **Agree to a criminal background and motor vehicle check.**
- **Attend the annual Driver Training Course**
 - **National Safety Council & State Highway Patrol educators**
- **Must be able to provide off-street parking for the van**
- **Have a back-up driver available in the vanpool**

VANPOOL DRIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Operate van in a safe and responsible manner**
- **Keep at least 5 in the vanpool**
- **Fuel and maintain vehicle – care for van**
 - **Fuel card with \$150 credit line for preventative maintenance purchases (oil change, tire rotation, etc.)**
 - **Major auto work – Notify and return vehicle to Vanpool Coordinator and receive a replacement**
- **Submit monthly mileage logs to Vanpool Coordinator**

ADVANTAGE FLEET

- **Current fleet of 33 vans (27 in service, 6 spares)**
 - Includes 7, 8, 11, and 12-passenger vans
- **Vehicles purchased with CMAQ federal funding**
 - 80% federal funding, 20% local match
 - “Buy America”
- **Service agreement with local dealer for maintenance**
 - Secured through RFP
 - Vans typically reach 100,000-miles in 4-5 years

7-8 PASSENGER VANS



11-12 PASSENGER VANS



STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

- **Vanpool Coordinator**
 - (1 full-time position, 1 half-time support)
 - Coordinate the establishment of vanpools
 - Catalogue and match membership requests
 - Monitor and process monthly mileage logs, billing statements, and payments
 - Direct and oversee vehicle maintenance
 - Liaison to vanpool drivers, passengers, maintenance contacts, and community

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- **Expand the program**
 - **Additional staff**
 - **Additional vehicles**
 - **More vanpools**
- **Secure additional capital funding for vehicle purchase from other sources than CMAQ**
- **Add GPS devices to vans for mileage monitoring**
- **Perform in-house vehicle maintenance**



QUESTIONS?

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