

## CARPOOLING TIPS

**Make your carpooling experience the best it can be by following these helpful hints:**

- Make a list of every potential rideshare partner. You may have gathered a big list of people through a web based matching service, word of mouth, and your postings. Contact everyone on your list. Don't be shy. They have also expressed interest in carpooling.
- A little flexibility can make ridesharing work for you. Carpool one day a week, or five. Drive to work with one person and home with another. Consider your schedule. Can you arrive half an hour earlier or later in order to make a match?
- Determine who will drive and discuss financial arrangements. If you rotate driving responsibilities, no money should change hands. If one person does the bulk of the driving, establish a fare and payment schedule to cover gas and parking and stick to it.
- Decide where, when, and in what order each rider will be picked up and dropped off. Use a meeting place if door-to-door arrangements are not practical.
- Be on time. Agree on a fair amount of time to wait for riders.
- Establish "Rules of the Road" to determine if smoking, eating, drinking, playing the radio, and use of perfume or cologne are acceptable in your carpool.
- Discuss side trips. Maybe you all want to stop for coffee in the morning, or maybe you'd rather just get to and from your destination as quickly as possible.
- Have a back-up plan. Sometimes cars won't start or weather turns nasty. Make sure all members have a list of contact information for all other members.
- Give it a trial run. It can take some time for everyone's schedules to come together, but once you've done it for a couple of weeks, you'll find out how much you like it!
- The keys to long term success in any relationship are communication, respect, and understanding. Your commitment to carpooling can result in long-term savings and unexpected friendships.



**Sharing your ride with a neighbour or a co-worker – relaxing and fun!**