



Florida Rural Vanpool Program

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The [Florida Department of Transportation](#) provides much-needed vanpool services to commuters in Florida, especially those living in rural communities.

Areas of Critical Concern include twenty-nine (29) of Florida's thirty-two (32) rural counties:

1. Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Liberty Counties (and a small area within Walton County)
2. Desoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Monroe (added in 2019) and Okeechobee Counties (and small areas within Collier and Palm Beach Counties)
3. Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor, and Union Counties

These three "Areas of Critical Concern" have similar economic conditions:

- Low per capita income
- High unemployment/ underemployment
- Low weekly wages compared to state averages
- High percentage of population receiving assistance
- Lack of year-round stable employment opportunities



Where public transportation is not available, or is considered inadequate to meet the needs of the population, a public/private partnership between FDOT & *Commute with Enterprise* has been formed to assist these areas of concern.

How does it work?



In partnership with FDOT's Commuter Assistance Programs and State of Florida Economic Development Organizations, *Commute with Enterprise* will provide well-appointed commuter highway vehicles that seat 7 to 15 persons, comprehensive auto liability insurance coverage, and a bumper-to-bumper preventive maintenance and repair package.

Services are provided on a month-to-month contract basis and require no long-term commitment.

FDOT will pay 50% toward the monthly rent and fuel to offset costs; vanpoolers pay the remaining 50% and will complete monthly trip recording.

Terms:

- A commuter vanpool is a group of individuals participating in a ridesharing arrangement in a van with a seating capacity of 7-15, including the driver.
- Driver and Backup driver are pool members who volunteer; they receive no compensation for their efforts. Vanpool costs are split amongst the ridership.
- Vanpool drivers use the van to pick up and deliver the other vanpool passengers to and from their residences (or a common staging area) and their places of employment. The use of the van will not be construed as being engaged in transportation as a business. The vehicle may be used for personal use as defined in the written agreement, but may not be used to carry passengers for hire outside the scope of the regular home-to-work commute.



For additional information about the State of Florida Rural Vanpool Program, contact RideOn Commuter Services: Pat@RideOnTogether.org or Katie@RideOnTogether.org