

2016 Intercity Transit Vanpool Winter Driving Newsletter



Vanpool Plan for Winter Weather

Even though the average snowfall in the Puget Sound area is around six inches, it's always a good idea to be ready for a significant weather event. Prepare a commute plan just in case.

Start by having a conversation with all your riders. Make sure everybody updates contact information; including mobile, home and work numbers. Worksites have varied reporting requirements, discuss what those are and how the group will respond to an inclement weather event.

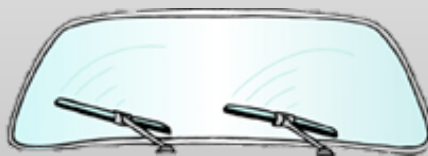
Remember that vanpool drivers are volunteers, not professional transit operators. We ask them to use good judgment when determining if road conditions permit operation of the van. If they are not comfortable, they should not drive the vanpool vans.

It may be appropriate to carpool instead. If any rider drives their own vehicle, with three or more other riders, Intercity Transit will reimburse the driver at 40¢ per mile.

Finally, if you determine that driving the van is safe and the group has committed to riding to work together, the group must stay committed to getting everyone back home. Leave no vanpooler behind!

Did you know??

Our Maintenance Department is stocked with winter supplies to keep the van in safe, tip top shape! You can swing by any time to replace lights, wiper blades, ice scrapers, deicer and first aid kits. No appointment needed. In a pinch, you may also use the Voyager fleet card to purchase these items.



Maintenance questions? Contact Breezy Medina at (360)705-5847 or bmedina@intercitytransit.com.

Black Ice: A Treacherous Road Condition*

Winter driving brings many challenges for drivers. One of the most treacherous is slippery and hard-to-spot black ice.

Though actually clear and transparent, "black" ice gets its name from the ability to blend with the rest of the pavement.

The best way to predict black ice is to be aware of when and where it forms. Black ice forms around dawn and late evening, when temperatures are typically the lowest. If pavement is dry but you notice glossy, dark spots, that is likely black ice! At night, drivers should be especially cautious, as this is when black ice is hardest to spot.

The most common locations are shaded sections of driveways and roadways that haven't been exposed to sunlight. Bridges and overpasses are also dangerous spots because they freeze quickly.

The basic rule for driving on black ice is to "stay calm and let the vehicle pass over it," according to AARP Driver Safety Director Julie Lee.

Tips to stay safe on black ice:

- ✓ Do not hit the brakes, instead keep your steering wheel steady.
- ✓ Lift your foot off the accelerator.
- ✓ Do not overcorrect your steering if you feel your car sliding.



Your safety is really important to us. When it comes to rain, sleet, ice and snow... take it slow!

*Adapted from <http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/black-ice-driving-dangers/22052530>

Intercity Transit's No Idle Policy ~ Our Commitment to Sustainability

Did you know Intercity Transit has an Environmental & Sustainability Management System and is currently certified to the ISO 14001 standard? We follow international standards to help us improve and sustain the environmental performance of all agency activities. The Vanpool Division's goal is to reduce fuel consumption.

Our drivers can help through conscientious driving. Aggressive driving (rapid acceleration and hard braking) wastes gas and can lower fuel efficiency by 33 percent on the highway and 5 percent in the city. Driving the speed limit also saves fuel. Highway fuel economy decreases rapidly for each 5mph over 50mph you drive.

Because you are safe drivers, you already help us save fuel. But there's one more thing you can do to help... don't idle.



Today's auto makers recommend waiting no more than 30 seconds before you begin driving, even on the coldest days. The best way to warm the vehicle is to drive it, avoiding high speeds and rapid acceleration for the first three miles.

When idling, you're literally going nowhere. Don't leave vans idling for more than one or two minutes. Idling can use one quarter to half gallon of fuel per hour, but it only takes 10 seconds of fuel to restart the engine. Minimizing your idle time reduces fuel costs, optimizes engine performance, reduces toxic air emissions, and benefits all of us.

Thank you for your participation in our program. Stay safe out there!


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