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How much does the commuteSMARTseacoast program cost?

Nothing – it's a FREE service.

Why should I carpool?

1. Save money – carpooling will reduce your commuting cost. You can save hundreds, even thousands of dollars over the course of a year, by saving on gas, maintenance, tolls, and wear and tear on your vehicle.
2. Relax – Your commute will be more enjoyable if you don't have to drive all the time. When you are not driving, you might be able to catch up on reading, take a nap or just relax a bit.
3. Save the Environment – carpooling takes cars off the road and thus reduces air pollution and traffic congestion, which helps preserve our precious NH environment.
4. Save time - If you commute to Boston, you can take advantage of the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane, which is dedicated for carpoolers.

What if I don't have a car?

That is okay because some commuters prefer to drive most or all of the time. You should be prepared to pay for a portion of the gas and other vehicle operating costs. These costs can be estimated and agreed upon based on the distance you will be commuting together.

What are some guidelines for successful carpooling?

Please review the [Tips for Successful Carpooling](#) .

I am already in a carpool, so what can the commuteSMARTseacoast do for me?

If your present carpool partner should decide not to carpool, or if you are looking to add people to your carpool, enrolling in the program would be beneficial. We can furnish you with a list of commuters who be back up or additional carpool partners.

For seacoast region commuters who register in the commuteSMARTseacoast carpool database and log their commute, they are eligible for the [Emergency Ride Home Program](#) (some restrictions apply), and eligible for monthly prize drawings.

I live in NH, but I work out of state...will commuteSMARTseacoast be able to help me?

Yes, a large percentage of NH commuters enrolled in our program commute out of state. If you commute to Maine, register in the [GoMaine](#) program. IF you commute to Massachusetts, register in the [massRIDES](#) program.

How long will it take to receive my match list?

After you register online, you will receive your match list right away.

Exactly how does the carpooling program work?

CommuteSMARTseacoast is part of a statewide database of people interested in carpooling. Register for the program [here](#). The computerized matching system will provide you with a map, list and contact information of potential people you may be able to share a ride with either on a one-time basis or for an ongoing carpool.

It is up to you to contact your potential carpool matches and determine if any of the matches seem like a good fit with your commute or trip. Note: we suggest you meet your potential ride match in a public place first to get acquainted and work out the details of your ridesharing arrangement.

What if I feel uncomfortable carpooling with a stranger?

That's understandable, which is why we suggest that you meet potential carpool partners in a public place before you commit to carpooling. Meet, talk, and decide whether or not you would feel comfortable sharing a ride. If you still feel uncomfortable after meeting, you can simply choose not to pursue the rideshare arrangement. You are not obligated to carpool. Perhaps you could agree to a trial carpool period to test the waters. If things don't work out, the carpooling arrangement ends, no strings attached.

Are carpool participants screened?

No, we do not screen participants. We do not run background checks on participants nor do we check for valid driver's licenses or assess insurance coverage. We recommend that you get to know your potential carpool matches and verify licensing, insurance and vehicle registration. It is up to you to determine whether or not you feel comfortable and want to be carpooling with someone.

What do I say when I call people on my match list?

Explain why you are calling and ask any particular questions you may have about carpooling with them, some examples are; what kind of car they have, and where drop offs and pick ups might happen. See [Contacting Your Matches](#) for sample email or phone scripts.

Do I have to carpool every day?

Absolutely not! You and your carpool partner(s) can determine what arrangement works best for you. Some of the most successful carpools only operate a few days a week. Some people just find it more convenient to carpool one to two days a week, and use the other days for things they need to do. Even carpooling a couple of days per week, can add up to significant savings.

What if the data base can't find me a match, what else can I do?

Once you register, you remain in the database until you request that your name be removed. If there is not match today, when someone registers for the database that has a similar enough commute to yours, you will be notified by email or direct mail of a new potential match.

CommuteSMARTseacoast has comprehensive information on all the [transit providers](#) in the area, perhaps you can use public transit to get close to your work site. Some employers have bulletin boards either on walls or electronic where you can post that you are looking for a carpool situation.

What is my commitment when I register?

Registering and receiving a match report doesn't obligate you to participate but gives you the information so you can select the possible matches. You may remove your information at any time.

How is my personal information used when I register?

The database uses your home address and work address to scan for matches. Your home street address and phone number will not appear on another person's match report. You will, however, need to provide work phone, cell phone number, or email address so future matches can contact you. The information you provide is used exclusively for the purpose of assisting registrants to find better ways to commute and is not distributed or sold for any other purposes. All data transmission over the Internet of sensitive data is encrypted and secure.

What if I need to leave work quickly due to an emergency and I don't have my vehicle at work? Or if I drove, how will my carpool buddies get home?

You may be able to take advantage of [Emergency Ride Home program](#) that provide alternate transportation if you are at work when an emergency arises for you or your carpool buddies.

What if my matches aren't convenient?

You may want to re-run your search by changing your preferences or with a variety of home and work radius'. If you aren't satisfied with your results [contact us](#) for an advanced match.

Can I track my environmental savings from changing my mode of transportation?

After submitting your registration, your personal Welcome Page comes up. Click on [Track your Commute](#) to record your commute. Use the [Mobile Commute Reporting](#) link to register to receive a daily message to easily record your commutes through your smart phone or email account. After recording your commutes, go to [Track your Commute](#) to run a monthly report showing your environmental and financial savings.

Can I log in with my Facebook account?

Yes - after you have registered online you can link your profile to your Facebook profile. Once you do so, you can log in with Facebook. When you navigate to your commuter matches that also have a Facebook page you can see more about your potential carpool match candidates who have also linked their profiles to their Facebook accounts.