



## SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUTER SERVICES

A Program of the Florida Department of Transportation

**FACT:** In 2005 the average American spent an estimated \$1,285 per year just on the gas needed for the daily work commute. – AAA, 2005

**FACT:** South Floridians battle severe congestion on a daily basis and spend an additional \$927 yearly for the extra fuel used sitting in traffic. – American Society of Civil Engineers, 2005

### South Florida Commuter Services

South Florida Commuter Services (SFCS) is the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) regional commuter assistance program dedicated to improving area traffic conditions by encouraging residents to take an alternative mode of transportation. SFCS offers the following services:



#### Carpooling

- Residents can team up with at least one other person for the drive to work to cut commute costs in half.
- Call 1-800-234-RIDE or visit [www.1800234RIDE.com](http://www.1800234RIDE.com), to complete the simple rideshare matching profile, and receive a list of possible carpool partners.
- Or, create your own carpool - just be sure to register with SFCS to be eligible for the Emergency Ride Home (ERH) Program. (See back for details.)

#### Vanpooling

- A vanpool is made up of five to fifteen people who commute together in a passenger van, and split the costs of its operation.
- Employee vanpools can easily be set up through SFCS by calling 1-800-234-RIDE or visiting [www.1800234RIDE.com](http://www.1800234RIDE.com).

#### Park & Ride

- To further conserve gas, carpool, vanpool and public transit riders can meet and/or park at park & ride lots.
- To view locations of park & ride lots throughout Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties, visit [www.1800234RIDE.com](http://www.1800234RIDE.com).

#### Transit Providers

- Commuters can visit [sfrtp.cinrtosfl.com](http://sfrtp.cinrtosfl.com) to obtain up-to-the-minute transit route information.
- For more information, contact Tri-Rail at 1-800-TRI-RAIL, Broward County Transit (BCT) at (954) 357-8400, Palm Beach Transit (Palm-Tran) at (561) 841-4200 and Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) at (305) 770-3131.

# Did You Know?



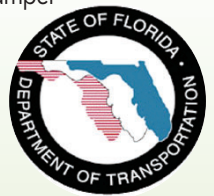
#### 511

- The 511 interactive telephone system provides up-to-the-minute, route specific traffic updates. Users can call 511 from a land line or cellular phone.
- This FREE service, provided by the Florida Department of Transportation, uses the SmarTraveler® Information System to take the guesswork out of the daily commute.
- 511 provides updated traffic conditions on major highways throughout Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Monroe Counties, in both English and Spanish. For more information, please visit [www.fl511.com](http://www.fl511.com).



#### Road Rangers to the Rescue

- Tri-County Road Rangers patrol area roadways looking for drivers in distress.
- Their trucks are equipped with battery chargers, jumper cables, gas cans, jacks, tools to fix flat tires, emergency essentials and many other resources.
- They also carry cell phones, and allow motorists two free "help" calls.
- If you need them call \*FHP on your phone.
- This is a FREE service provided by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).



#### SunPass – No Coins, No Lines, No Stopping

- One of the best ways to keep traffic moving is for more vehicles to pass through toll plazas without stopping.
- The SunPass prepaid toll program uses an electronic transponder placed in drivers' cars to automatically deduct tolls, often at a DISCOUNTED RATE.
- SunPass transponders can be used on any Florida state-run toll road.
- For more information, visit [www.SunPass.com](http://www.SunPass.com) or call 1-800-TOLL-FLA.





## SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUTER SERVICES

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## Carpooling

# Tips

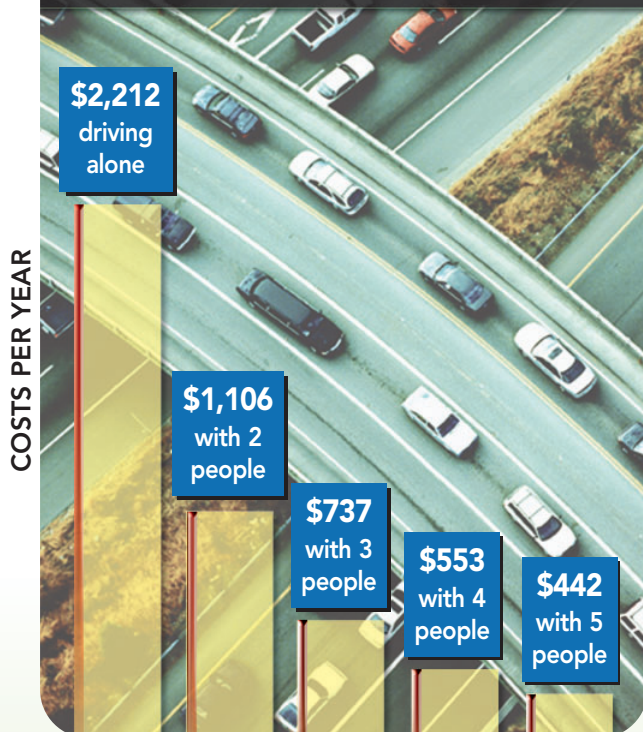
### Setting Up a Carpool:

**Find Carpool Partners** – the SFCS online ridematching program allows you to be matched up with other individuals interested in carpooling who live and work near you.

**Set Up a Work Commute Program** – Contact SFCS at 1-800-234-RIDE to set up a tailored commuter program for you and your co-workers to share the ride to work (carpool, etc).



### 2005 Drive Alone vs. Carpool



Sources: AAA, American Society of Civil Engineers

**Establish a Driving Schedule** – Determine who from your carpool group would like to drive, and when. Decide if you want to alternate on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. Once you have it planned out, print a driving schedule for everyone in the group to eliminate confusion.

**Establish Carpool Rules** – To ensure a smooth commute, it might be a good idea to set rules regarding issues like: smoking, eating and drinking in the car, radio playing, waiting times for tardy riders, seating arrangements, car maintenance and due dates for rideshare fares.

**Determine Carpool Fares** – If your group is going to split the costs of gas and maintenance of the carpool, it might be a good idea to figure out the weekly fare for each rider or agree to switch vehicles.

**Car Insurance** – Verify that your carpool driver has a valid driver's license, and the proper car insurance. Also, if you're a driver or carpooler, check with your car insurance provider to see if you can qualify for a carpooling discount.

**Emergency Ride Home (ERH) Program** - Once you've identified your carpool, be sure to register every member of your group with SFCS to receive Emergency Ride Home (ERH) benefits: up to six FREE taxi rides a year for emergency situations. You can register by calling 1-800-234-RIDE or visiting [www.1800234RIDE.com](http://www.1800234RIDE.com).

### Managing Your Carpool:

**Create a Carpool Contact Sheet** – Once you have a carpool group, plan for emergencies, communicate riders' absence for illness, etc. by preparing a carpool rider contact sheet with everyone in your carpool's name, phone numbers (home, cell) and E-mail address.

**Establish a Schedule for Pick-Up Points** – Once you have your carpool group organized, work with everyone in the group to develop a schedule outlining meeting times, pick-up locations (Park & Ride lots are good) and drop-off times.

To learn more about setting up carpools, call 1-800-234-RIDE or log on to [www.1800234RIDE.com](http://www.1800234RIDE.com)