

Shared Mobility for People with Disabilities

An app-based ride hailing service such as Uber or Lyft enables drivers to operate in a taxi-like fashion, generally booked in real time. This industry is in flux, due to emerging regulations that require drivers to be treated as employees, rather than independent contractors, so that drivers may receive employment benefits. Also relevant to disabled customers, is the TNC Access for All Act that established a \$.10 fee on all completed TNC rides throughout California, the proceeds of which would fund wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) TNC service. The California Public Utilities Commission is charged with the implementation and oversight of this law. Some locations and companies include Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV) but this is limited around the U.S. so far.

There are several other common rideshare options you can use: carpooling and vanpooling. You can find these services by browsing these terms on your computer or phone.

Carpooling means two or more people, including the driver, arrange to share a car to travel on the same route or to the same destination. It is an arrangement typically used by commuters who arrange for the car's driver to pick them up at a certain location and time. Riders usually share the cost of gas and, if applicable, toll charges.

Another rideshare option you can use is vanpooling, where one driver gives prearranged rides to three or more individuals who share a similar origin and destination as the driver. Similar to carpool riders, vanpool riders get picked up and dropped off at pre-agreed locations and times. Vanpooling usually is a subscription-based service that an employer, a public agency, or a business district may offer. They may also pay part of the cost for the vanpool program, as well as offer to match riders and drivers based on their locations. Leased minivans or passenger vans are commonly used for vanpools. If you decide to sign up for a vanpool, you



would share a monthly fee that covers the vehicle lease, vehicle maintenance, insurance, and the cost of gas and, if applicable, tolls.

Vanpooling and carpooling are noncommercial rideshare options where you ride with someone who is already making the trip by themselves. Carpooling is more flexible than vanpooling because no dedicated vehicle and no membership are involved and the arrangement is usually among fewer people. The third shared mobility option you can use, real-time ridesharing, is a commercial arrangement.

