

## "A Customer First Company" November 2017

Welcome to the November 2017 Edition of "On the Move"

## Transportation Benefit Remains Virtually Unchanged

An initial version of tax reform was released by the House Ways & Means Committee. This version keeps section 132(f), the section of law related to the transportation benefit, virtually unchanged.



Employers who subsidize their employee's transportation expenses will see a change in the way they "write-off" expenses made for employee parking or transit. Despite this change, employers will continue to benefit from payroll tax benefits from providing the transportation fringe benefit (both as a subsidy or pre-tax).

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## Recent Vanpool Workshop Provides Valuable Updates

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, Vanpool Alliance hosted its second Vanpool Workshop. Various highway and transportation organizations and companies attended and contributed at this event.



John Hawkins, Transportation Manager for the Department of Homeland Security, discussed that over the next 2 to 4 years, close to fifty current DHS locations will move to their new location at St. Elizabeth's Campus in the Anacostia neighborhood of southeast Washington, DC. Vanpooling will play a significant role in getting DHS employees to work.

Susan Shaw, Northern Virginia Mega Projects Director for VDOT, provided updates for several projects aimed at relieving congestion, improving safety, and providing faster transit. These projects include the Transform I-66 Inside and Outside the Beltway project, the HOV Lane project, and the I-395 Express Lanes Project. The updates included construction preparation information, key milestones, traffic and incident management strategies as well as communication and outreach efforts.



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In addition, her presentation highlighted upcoming mitigation strategies that will include vanpool formation incentives.

Joe Stainsby, Program Manager for Vanpool Alliance, discussed future state funded vanpool incentive programs that would increase the number of people vanpooling through the congested corridors of Virginia. These upcoming programs and initiatives could correlate to 75% new riders on vans.

## 15 Passenger Van Driver Safety Reminders

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's research provides information about the safe operation of 15 passenger vans. These vans have a higher rollover risk that increases dramatically as the number of occupants increases from fewer than five to more than ten.

There are steps you can take to minimize the risk of a rollover. These steps include:

- Make sure all occupants wear safety belts at all times. An unrestrained occupant involved in a single-vehicle crash is about 3 times as likely to be killed as a restrained occupant.
- Check tire pressure regularly. Tires should be properly inflated, and the tread should not be worn down. Improperly inflated tires can lead to a loss of vehicle control.
- Drive at a safe speed & understand the differences in handling. A 15-passenger van is longer and wider than a car, and requires more space to maneuver. Also, more reliance on the side-view mirrors are needed for changing lanes. If roads are wet or icy slow down, 15-passenger vans will not respond well to abrupt steering maneuvers and need more braking time.

For more information about how you can drive safer visit: https://www.nhtsa.gov/roadsafety/passenger-vans

## Do You Have an Article You Would Like Featured in an Upcoming Newsletter?

If you have an article, information, or a photo you would like to share with our K&K riders in a future newsletter please feel free to contact Onika Williams at <u>owilliams@ridek2k.com</u>. We are always looking for information that would interest you. In addition, we would love to hear what is happening on your vans. Do you have any special celebrations or outings that you participate in? We can't wait to hear from you. All submissions will be reviewed, and a determination will be made on whether the information will be used.

Special thanks to Deborah Jones who provided the information concerning 15 passenger van safety for this month's newsletter.

### K&K Connections November Birthdays

We would like to wish everyone born in November a very special HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Charles Bennett Solomon Blevins Christopher Bunting Odell Greene, Jr. Anthony Jackson Kendall Manion Tamela Samuels LaToya Jarrett Michael Sebastian Melvin Washington Victoria Perry Leo Sharp Lisa Earman John Everett Barbee Crook Phyllis Erkins Alex Guzman Daniel Hand Qiyenda Hill Cindy Norris Pernell Owens William Pedler Dejuana Scott Donna Webb

### Welcome to K&K Connections

We would like to say a BIG welcome to all our new riders. We are so privileged that you have decided to make K&K your vanpool company of choice.