

# THE BLUE COMMUTE

A Newsletter for Douglas County Commuters December 2016

## DRIVER NEWS



Van route logs for December are due **Friday, January 6**

*Drivers, please adhere to the deadline date above and turn in your logs on time.*

All paper logs must be turned in by **Friday, January 6**

Refer riders who do not provide a boarding pass or e-mail online payment confirmation to the office for assistance prior to their boarding the van the first working day of the month.

Thank you!

## **Hear Ye, Hear Ye, New Policy**

Rideshare has implemented a new policy that is effective immediately. The new policy states that all Rideshare vans are prohibited from using a drive through window at any facility.

All drivers who use a facility that has a drive through must park the van and go inside to take care of business.

DO NOT under any circumstances try to manipulate a Rideshare van through a drive-through. They are just too easy to misjudge distance and height which has caused accidents with the vans to occur.



## Davidae's News

Did you know that when you drive a Rideshare van, you are a moving billboard? All other motorists on the road see your moving van and hold you, the driver to a higher standard than other motorist who drive using their own personal vehicle.

Motorist call-in reports continue to grow and it is imperative that our drivers obey all driving laws whether it is speeding, riding in the slow poke lane, not using a blinker to switch lanes, jumping in traffic at the last minute to get on exit ramps, etc.

A continued high volume of motorist call-in reports could end up hurting the vanpool program in the long run and this is something we need to correct now.

Do not let other motorists get under your skin and cause you to react with some type of road rage. Laying on the horn, giving folks your middle finger and other actions that demonstrate road rage are not tolerated. Learn to let it go and to be courteous of other drivers, regardless of your frustrations.

Also, any accident that a van is involved in must have a police report filed.

An accident does not necessarily have to involve another vehicle. *Accidents are any incident that occurs with the van.* This could be due to your hitting a pole, someone keying the van or other types of incidents that do not include another vehicle.

It is imperative that we follow all accident/incident procedures. Failure to do so could result in

your driver privileges being suspended.

Drivers have incident/accident procedures to follow in the blue book that is in the van. If you van does not have a blue book, please get in touch with me at 770-920-7514 so that I can get one ready for you.

Merry Christmas,  
Davidae

## Notes from Justin



Rideshare staff can suspend the operation of vanpool routes temporarily if severe weather or manmade conditions post a threat to riders.

In case of inclement weather drivers should **NOT** operate a van unless it has first been cleared by the Rideshare office.

**No van** should be on the road if Rideshare has closed down operations for inclement weather.

## **Rideshare Holiday Schedule**

December 22  
5 a.m. - 5 p.m.

December 23  
County holiday - Closed

December 26  
County holiday - Closed

December 27 - December 30  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.





### News from Elaine, Georgia Commute Options

Don't forget to register for the **Guaranteed Ride Home Program** for 2017. To do this go to: <http://gacommuteoptions.com>. On the right hand side under *save your commute*, click on guaranteed ride home. Look to your right and download the application.

Once you have completed and signed the application, fax it back to Georgia Commute Options, 770-357-3740 or send it back using e-mail to: [mygacommuteoptions@mygacomuteoptions.com](mailto:mygacommuteoptions@mygacomuteoptions.com).

I am standing by to answer questions you may have. My contact information is [ElaineM@gacommuteoptions.com](mailto:ElaineM@gacommuteoptions.com).

Happy Holidays,  
*Elaine Mayo*

### PARK & RIDE LOTS

A lot of you may have already noticed that there has been work going on at the Post Road and Thornton Road Park and Ride lots. Work crews have been busy installing emergency call boxes, new signs, new shelters, plus restriping and sealing the pavement in the parking lots.



As 2016 comes to an end and we began 2017 we have more work planned for these two park and ride lots that should not affect those who park there.

Our goal is to make them "user - friendly" while providing a safe, welcoming environment.

Your cooperation and patience has been appreciated while this work has been going on and we hope that you will find the Park and Ride lots much better than before.



### Reminders of Defensive Driving

#### 12 & 15 Passenger Van Characteristics:

1. Substantially longer and wider than a car, therefore requiring a wider turn radius.
2. Requires more space and additional reliance on the side mirrors for changing lanes.
3. Does not respond as safely to abrupt steering maneuvers.

#### Recommended safe following distance is as follows:

1. When weather, road and visibility conditions are good, maintain 4 seconds behind other traffic.
2. When weather, road and visibility conditions are bad, maintain at least 6 seconds behind other traffic.
3. When the vehicle in front of you passes a fixed object (for example, a telephone pole or mailbox), count one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, etc. and you should not pass that same fixed object before the designated count.

#### Turn Signals

Always communicate your intentions by using your turn signals. Other drivers on the road don't know what you are planning to do unless you tell them. A turn signal must be given continuously during at least the last 100 feet traveled before turning.

#### Safety Belts

Safety belts **MUST** be worn at all times. In fatal, single-vehicle roll-overs involving 15- passenger vans over the past decade, 92% of belted occupants survived.

### THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR NOT BUCKLING UP!

#### Inclement Weather

Douglas County does not operate any vehicles when there is inclement weather, with the exception of emergency vehicles. All vehicles are parked until Douglas County Office of Risk & Safety deems it safe to have vehicles on the road. Please make sure that your van is parked and secured.

#### Accident Procedures and Documentation

1. Call E-911 regardless of severity (If inside the county-- tell them you are in a Douglas County vehicle).
2. Secure the van (Place it in park, apply the parking/emergency brake, activate 4-way flashers and set out reflective triangles).
3. Do not admit fault. Speak to no one at the scene except law enforcement. Do not speak to anyone after the fact. Refer them to Mary Jo Clower— (770)920-7205.
4. Photograph everything (vehicles, license, tags, skid marks, people, interiors, environmental factors, traffic conditions, traffic control devices, etc.)
5. Get case number and/or witness contact information from Law Enforcement
6. Go for drug/alcohol testing regardless of fault or severity of the accident.
7. Complete and submit Motor Vehicle Accident Report, along with any photographs, to Risk & Safety

*We wish you a Merry Christmas*  
From,  
Rideshare and the office  
of Risk and Safety  
Gary, Davidae, Jerie, Justin  
Lawanda, Pat, Brenda, Matt,  
Lillian and Mary Jo