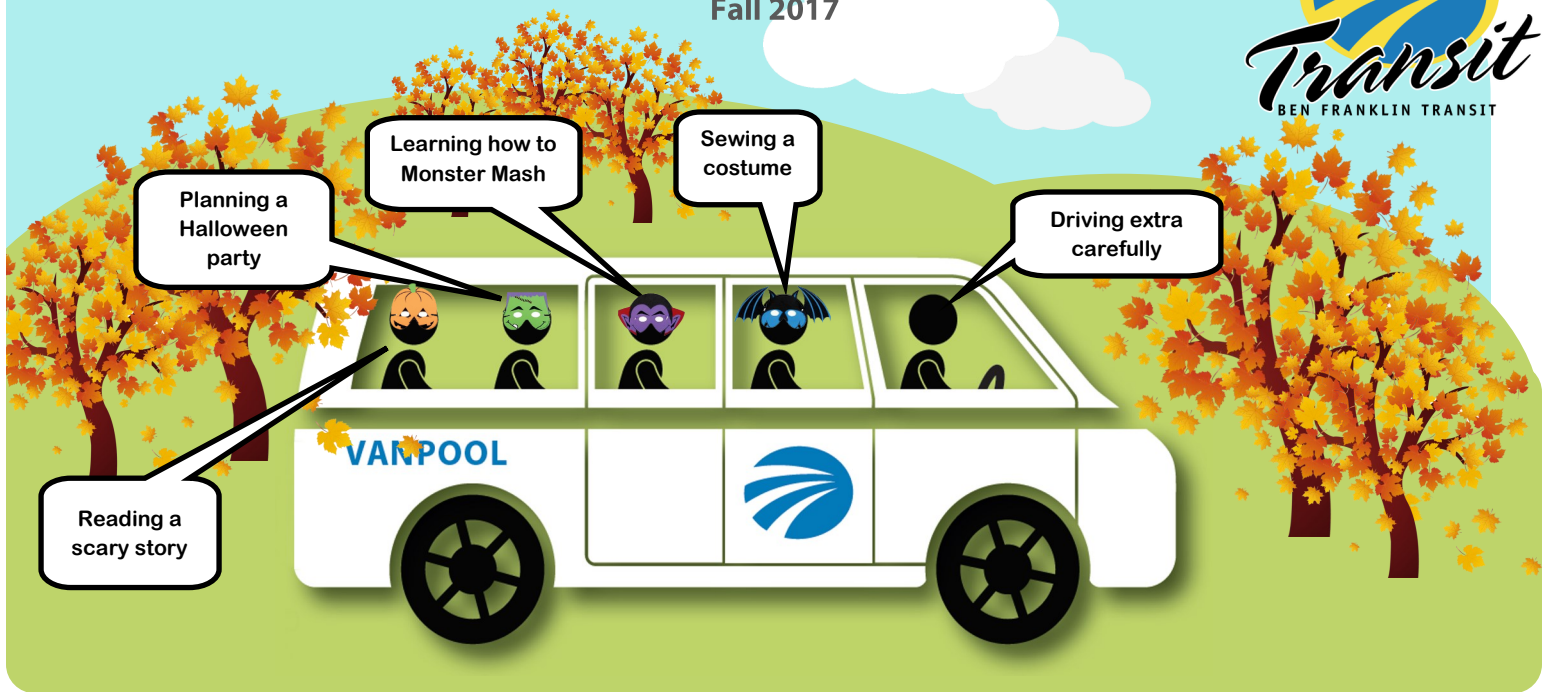


# Ben Franklin Transit Vanpool

Fall 2017



## The Three P's of Safe Winter Driving: **PREPARE, PROTECT, PREVENT**

### PREPARE

**Maintain Your Car:** Check battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers; keep your windows clear; put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir; and check your antifreeze. **Have on Hand:** flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares) and blankets.

For long trips: add food and water, medication and cell phone.

Stopped or Stalled? Stay in your car, don't overexert, put bright markers on antenna or windows and shine dome light, and, if you run your car, clear exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.

Plan Your route: Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/ directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

### PROTECT YOURSELF

- Buckle up and use child safety seats properly.
- Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag.
- Children 12 and under are much safer in the back seat.

### PREVENT CRASHES

- Drugs and alcohol never mix with driving. If you are planning to drink, designate a sober driver
- Slow down and increase distances between cars.
- Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road.
- Avoid fatigue – Get plenty of rest before the trip, stop at least every three hours, and rotate drivers if possible.

Source: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/SafeDriving.pdf>



**Ben Franklin Transit Vanpool— Stress Free Commuting *and* More Money in Your Pocket**

For more information, give us a call at 509.943.5442 or visit [www.bft.org](http://www.bft.org)



## Drive Extra Safely on Halloween

We might not trick-or-treat at Vanpool, but we do see plenty of kids out on the streets trick-or-treating. If your Vanpool goes through neighborhoods or picks up at places where trick-or-treaters may be present, please drive carefully.

And if you're planning on taking any little trick-or-treaters of your own out this year, here is some advice from [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org):

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross
- Put electronic devices down and keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing

## Maintenance Minute

Do you have a headlight or blinker out? Do you need your washer fluid reservoir refilled? Or do you need oil topped off? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you can stop by the maintenance shop at Bay#1, and they'll help you right on the spot.

### Do you have a new rock chip or crack on the windshield?

Call us at 509.943.5442 and we'll schedule an appointment with our vendor Safelite.

## Insurance Cards

Can you believe the year 2017 is almost over and 2018 is right around the corner? We can! That is why we have 2018 Insurance cards ready for all your vanpool groups. Email Gladys Diaz ([gdiaz@bft.org](mailto:gdiaz@bft.org)), Vicky Pacheco ([vpacheco@bft.org](mailto:vpacheco@bft.org)), or call 509.943.5442 and let them know if you'd like the insurance card mailed or saved for pick up.

## What About Black Ice?

Winter brings many dangers for motorists, with one of the most threatening being slippery and hard-to-spot black ice. Black ice forms when the air is at 32 degrees or below at the surface and rain is falling, according to AccuWeather Meteorologist Andrew Mussoline. The ground temperature causes the precipitation to freeze upon impact, thus creating ice. Sleet and the refreezing of snow or water can also generate black ice.



Tips to stay safe while driving on black ice:

- Do not hit the brakes, instead keep your steering wheel steady.
- Lift your foot off the accelerator.
- Do not overcorrect your steering if you feel your car sliding.

Adapted from <http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/black-ice-driving-dangers/22052530>

## It's Time to Fall Back!

It's that time again folks when we need to fall back and change our clocks back one hour! On Sunday November 5, daylight saving time ends.



Remember, Vanpool (and all BFT) offices will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day. Have a great holiday season!

## Stud Tire Season is Just Around the Corner!

With stud tire season is right around the corner, we are preparing appointment books for Commercial Tire. Please call us at the Vanpool Office at [509.943.5442](tel:509.943.5442) to schedule an appointment.

## Coordinator/Bookkeepers' Corner

Thank you, Coordinators, and Bookkeepers for sending us the New Group Forms and Rider Agreements! As a friendly reminder, please submit ridership and fares log by the 10th of each month so that your office coordinator at BFT can submit reports by the 25th of the month. With upcoming changes to our Vanpool database, we will slowly but surely be moving to online ridership and fare forms. If you have any questions on how to complete these reports please contact us so we can help you.

