

Dear Club Red member,

We want to make you aware of an issue that is coming to a head and may significantly impact your commute. Recently, Valley Regional Transit (VRT) initiated a review of ACHD Commuteride, including the vanpool operations. Now, VRT proposes to eliminate Commuteride and contract with Enterprise Rent-A-Car to provide a new vanpool service for Ada and Canyon counties.

From the feedback we've received over the years, we know you value the existing program, one of the first (1977) and most successful vanpools in the nation. While we can't speak to the exact costs of a changeover to a for-profit company like Enterprise, in other cities the company charges a fare based on per-van ridership, adjusting the price to ensure a profit. Commuteride has always been a non-profit operation, keeping costs only at the level needed to keep the vans on the road.

On August 7, the VRT Executive Board will make a recommendation to the entire VRT Board, which will make the final decision in September. VRT can make this change - Commuteride has operated under a long-standing agreement with VRT, the region's designated mass transit agency - but VRT has been unable to make a compelling case for moving away from a successful program. Up until now, the riders have been excluded from the debate but we feel your opinion matters. Please see the list of VRT Executive Board Members (the names in bold) and their contact information. If you value Commuteride, please reach out to these board members and let them know what you think. If you have any questions, please give us a call or send us an email. Thanks, and look for updates in our monthly Club Red newsletter.

Sincerely,

Maureen Gresham