



## **Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **NEW VANPOOL PROGRAM STARTS IN YUMA COUNTY**

*Yuma County Area Transit (YCATA) received a grant from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to start YCATA Vanpool*

**YUMA, AZ (August 20, 2013)** – The Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (YCIPTA), which operates YCATA received a grant for \$36,000 to implement YCATA Vanpool, a new mode of transportation for local commuters.

The subsidized program, which started on September 1, should offer a more affordable option for residents driving or carpooling within Yuma County, to Imperial County and even Maricopa County. YCATA Vanpool is available to anyone who forms a vanpool and the vanpool is to originate, travel through or end in Yuma County.

YCATA Vanpool is meant to be a service that will help be the catalyst towards the implementation of a future YCATA bus route if demand presents the need. Potential destinations that YCATA Vanpool would target includes GM, Yuma Proving Grounds, MCAS Yuma, Shaw Industries, Gowing Milling, Johnson Controls and other employer sites with large commuting populations.

The average driver spends about \$750 a month on fuel and car expenses, whereas the average van pool rider spends about \$150 a month, according to YCIPTA Transit Director, John Andoh.

“You don’t have to put the wear and tear on your car, and plus with it being a van the cost gets lower because you can fit more people,” Andoh said.

YCIPTA will subsidize \$300 of the van lease costs per month, which would be paid to YCIPTA’s vanpool contractors, vRide and Enterprise Rideshare.

Modeled after the Tucson’s Sun Rideshare vanpool program, YCATA Vanpool will connect commuters headed to similar destinations and contract with private vendors

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John Andoh, Transit Director

to loan out the vans. One person in the group will be responsible for managing the vanpool and driving the van.

The small size and self-driving aspect of vanpools make them an attractive alternative to busing.

"Others have tried to start commuter bus service but haven't been able to make it work in the past," noted Chairman Robert Pickles of the Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority.

YPG and MCAS tested a commuter bus service in the 1980's and early 1990's, but Andoh said the ridership was dismal which lead to their elimination. YCIPTA worked with Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation, YPG, GM, Gowan Milling and Johnson Controls to determine the best way to provide alternative transportation at a low cost to the employers and/or employees. This lead to the creation of YCAT Vanpool and YCIPTA seeking a job access reverse commute grant from ADOT to launch its implementation.

YCIPTA's job will be to ensure the riders of each vanpool are headed to locations in close proximity to one another. This will be accomplished through vRide and Enterprise's trip matching software to determine how to best form vanpools in Yuma County.

The new grant will fund 30 vanpools during the first year. The YCIPTA Board of Directors will consider the program continuation after the grant expires on September 30, 2014.

"We're hoping that it will be so successful that it will be able to run itself after the grant runs out," Andoh said.

More details about YCAT Vanpool are available by calling 928.783.2235 or visiting [www.ycat.az.gov](http://www.ycat.az.gov).

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### **About Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority**

YCIPTA is the public transportation provider for Yuma County, formed as an intergovernmental public transportation authority as defined in the Arizona Revised Statutes by the Yuma County Board of Supervisors, YCIPTA is governed by a nine member Board of Directors consisting of all of the municipalities, the County government, Indian tribes and higher educational institution in Yuma County. 350,000 passengers' trips were made on YCAT buses in FY 2013. YCIPTA operates, maintains and administers Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT) fixed route, deviated fixed route, vanpool and paratransit services and contracts services to Transportation Concepts of Irvine, CA, vRide of Troy, MI and Enterprise Rideshare of Tempe, AZ. See where it takes you at [www.ycat.az.gov](http://www.ycat.az.gov) or call 928.783.2235.

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