

Travel Reduction Program



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the role of motorcycles in the Travel Reduction Program (TRP)?

Valley Metro® is often asked by Transportation Coordinators (TCs) if employees who drive a motorcycle to work are alternative mode users (AMUs). The answer? No, unless the motorcycle includes two driving-age people for at least half of the total trip distance.

Motorcycles are Not Alternative Modes

Motorcycles are not alternative modes of transportation. Although motorcycles obtain higher miles per gallon than most other motorized vehicles, they generally pollute more per mile than automobiles. Because of their negative effect on air quality, motorcycles should not be included in TRP efforts.

Motorcycles Produce More Pollution Than Cars

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality uses guidelines developed by the California Air Resources Board on motorcycles and air pollution. The research shows that motorcycles produce up to 15 times the emissions per mile compared to the average new car or light duty truck. Because of the relatively small portion of motorcycle traffic compared to car traffic, the impact of motorcycle pollution is not urgently addressed. The main focus of the TRP continues to be the significant congestion and pollution caused by cars and trucks.

While motorcycles do get better gas mileage, they are not a less polluting alternative to cars. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, under the current hydrocarbon standard (in effect as of 2004) large sports utility vehicles are approximately 95% cleaner than today's motorcycles.

Motorcycles are Allowed in the High-occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane for Safety Reasons

The Arizona Department of Transportation allows motorcycles in the HOV lanes for safety reasons, not air pollution reasons. The HOV lane keeps motorcycles on one side of the freeway in a lane with lower vehicle volume.

For assistance with the Maricopa County Travel Reduction Program, contact your Valley Metro Commute Solutions coordinator at 602.262.RIDE (7433).



Sponsored by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Maricopa Association of Governments, Maricopa County Air Quality Department and Valley Metro.

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