T-11. Provide Employer-Sponsored Vanpool

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GHG Mitigation Potential

Up to 20.4% of GHG emissions from project/site employee commute VMT

Co-Benefits (icon key on pg. 34)

Climate Resilience

Employer-sponsored vanpools could result in less traffic, potentially reducing congestion or delays on major roads during peak AM and PM traffic periods. When this reduction occurs during extreme weather events, it better allows emergency responders to access a hazard site.

Health and Equity Considerations

Consider using zero-emission or plug-in electric vehicles (PHEVs) for additional emission reduction benefits.

Measure Description

This measure will implement an employer-sponsored vanpool service. Vanpooling is a flexible form of public transportation that provides groups of 5 to 15 people with a cost-effective and convenient rideshare option for commuting. The mode shift from long-distance, single-occupied vehicles to shared vehicles reduces overall commute VMT, thereby reducing GHG emissions.

Subsector

Trip Reduction Programs

Locational Context

Urban, suburban, rural

Scale of Application

Project/Site

Implementation Requirements

Vanpool programs are more appropriate for the building occupant or tenant (i.e., employer) to implement and monitor than the building owner or developer.

Cost Considerations

Employer costs primarily include the capital costs of vehicle acquisition and the labor costs of drivers, either through incentives to current employees or the hiring of dedicated drivers. The beneficiaries include the program participants saving on commuting cost, the employer reducing onsite parking expenses, and the municipality reducing cars on the road, which leads to lower infrastructure and roadway maintenance costs.

Expanded Mitigation Options

When implementing a vanpool service, best practice is to subsidize the cost for employees that have a similar origin and destination and provide priority parking for employees that vanpool.

This measure could be paired with any combination of the other commute trip reduction strategies (Measures T-7 through T-13) for increased reductions.

GHG Reduction Formula

$$A = \frac{((1 - B) \times C \times F) + \left(B \times \frac{D}{E} \times G\right)}{((1 - B) \times C \times F) + (B \times D \times F)} - 1$$

GHG Calculation Variables

ID	Variable	Value	Unit	Source
Output				
A	Percent reduction in GHG emissions from project/site employee commute VMT	3.4–20.4	%	calculated
User Inputs				
	None			
Constants, Assumptions, and Available Defaults				
B	Percent of employees that participate in vanpool program	2.7	%	SANDAG 2019
C	Average length of one-way vehicle commute trip in region	Table T-11.1	miles per trip	FHWA 2017
D	Average length of one-way vanpool commute trip	42.0	miles per trip	SANDAG 2019
E	Average vanpool occupancy (including driver)	6.25	occupants	SANDAG 2019
F	Average emission factor of average employee vehicle	307.5	g CO_2e per mile	CARB 2020
G	Vanpool emission factor	763.4	g CO_2e per mile	CARB 2020

Further explanation of key variables:

- (B) – The percent of employees that would participate in a vanpool program is based on a survey of commuters in San Diego County (SANDAG 2019). If the project is not within San Diego County or the user is able to provide a project-specific value for within San Diego County, the user should replace the default employee participation rate in the GHG reduction formula.
- (C) – Ideally, the user will calculate auto commute trip lengths for a Project/Site at a scale no larger than a census tract. Potential data sources include the U.S. Census, California Household Travel Survey (preferred), or local survey efforts. If the user is not able to provide a project-specific value using one of these data sources, they have the option to input the regional average one-way auto commute trip length for one of the six most populated CBSAs in California, as presented in Table T-11.1 in Appendix C (FHWA 2017). Trip lengths are likely to be longer for areas not covered by the listed CBSAs, which represent the denser areas of the state.
- (D and E) – The average one-way vanpool commute trip length and occupancy are based on data from the San Diego Association of Government's regional vanpool program (SANDAG 2019). If the project is not within San Diego County or the user is

able to provide a project-specific value for within San Diego County, the user should replace these defaults in the GHG reduction formula.

- (F and G) – The average GHG emission factors for employee commute and vanpool vehicles were calculated in terms of CO_2e per mile using EMFAC2017 (v1.0.3). The model was run for a 2020 statewide average using diesel and gasoline fuel. The average of the light-duty automobile (LDA) and light duty truck (LDT1/LDT2) vehicle categories represents employee non-vanpool vehicles and the light-heavy duty truck (LHDT1) vehicle category conservatively represents a large cargo vanpool vehicle. The running emission factors for CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O (CARB 2020) were multiplied by the corresponding 100-year GWP values from the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report (IPCC 2007). If the user can provide a project-specific value (i.e., for a future year and project location), the user should run EMFAC to replace the defaults in the GHG reduction formula.

GHG Calculation Caps or Maximums

Measure Maximum

(A_{max}) For projects in San Diego County that use default CBSA data from Table T-11.1 and (B_{max}), the maximum percent reduction in GHG emissions (A) is 20.4 percent. This maximum scenario is presented in the below example quantification.

(B_{max}) The percent of employees that participate in the vanpool program is capped at 15 percent, which is based on the high end of vanpool participation survey data for several successful programs in the U.S. (SANDAG 2019).

Subsector Maximum

($\sum A_{max_{T\text{-}5 \text{ through } T\text{-}13}} \leq 45\%$) This measure is in the Trip Reduction Programs subsector. This subcategory includes Measures T-5 through T-13. The employee commute VMT reduction from the combined implementation of all measures within this subsector is capped at 45 percent.

Mutually Exclusive Measures

If this measure is selected, the user may not also take credit for either Measure T-5 or T-6. However, this measure may be implemented alongside other individual CTR measures (Measures T-7 through T-10, T-12, and T-13). The efficacy of individual programs may vary highly based on individual employers and local contexts.

Example GHG Reduction Quantification

The user reduces employee commute VMT by requiring that the employer of the project to sponsor a vanpool program. In this example, the project is in the San Diego-Carlsbad CBSA and would have an average vehicle commute trip length of 14.52 miles (C). The percent of employees that participate in the vanpool program is 15 percent (B_{max}). GHG emissions from employee commute would be reduced by 20.4 percent.

$$A = \frac{\left((1-15\%) \times 14.52 \frac{\text{miles}}{\text{trip}} \times 307.5 \frac{\text{g } CO_2e}{\text{miles}}\right) + \left(15\% \times \frac{42 \frac{\text{miles}}{\text{trip}}}{6.25 \text{ occupants}} \times 763.4 \frac{\text{g } CO_2e}{\text{miles}}\right)}{\left((1-15\%) \times 14.52 \frac{\text{miles}}{\text{trip}} \times 307.5 \frac{\text{g } CO_2e}{\text{miles}}\right) + \left(15\% \times 42 \frac{\text{miles}}{\text{trip}} \times 307.5 \frac{\text{g } CO_2e}{\text{miles}}\right)} - 1 = -20.4\%$$

Quantified Co-Benefits

Improved Local Air Quality

The percent reduction in GHG emissions (A) would be the same as the percent reduction in NO_X, CO, NO_2, SO_2, and PM. Reductions in ROG emissions can be calculated by multiplying the percent reduction in GHG emissions (A) by an adjustment factor of 87 percent. See *Adjusting VMT Reductions to Emission Reductions* above for further discussion.

Energy and Fuel Savings

The percent reduction in vehicle fuel consumption (H) can be calculated using the GHG reduction formula except that (F) and (G) should be replaced by (I) and (J), as follows.

Fuel Use Reduction Formula

$$H = \frac{\left((1-B) \times C \times I\right) + \left(B \times \frac{D}{E} \times J\right)}{\left((1-B) \times C \times I\right) + (B \times D \times I)} - 1$$

Fuel Use Reduction Calculation Variables

ID	Variable	Value	Unit	Source
Output				
H	Percent reduction in fuel use from project/site employee commute VMT	4.7–21.4	%	calculated
User Inputs				
	None			
Constants, Assumptions, and Available Defaults				
I	Fuel efficiency of average employee vehicle	0.03639	gallon (gal) per mile	CARB 2020
J	Fuel efficiency of vanpool vehicle	0.08328	gal per mile	CARB 2020

Further explanation of key variables:

- (I and J) – The average fuel efficiencies for employee commute and vanpool vehicles were calculated using EMFAC2017 (v1.0.3). The model was run for a 2020 statewide average using diesel and gasoline fuel. The average of the LDA,

LDT1, and LDT2 vehicle categories represents employee non-vanpool vehicles, and the LHDT1 vehicle category conservatively represents a large cargo vanpool vehicle. If the user can provide a project-specific value (i.e., for a future year and project location), the user should run EMFAC to replace the defaults in the fuel use reduction formula.

- Please refer to the GHG Calculation Variables table above for definitions of variables that have been previously defined.

VMT Reductions

The percent reduction in VMT can be calculated using a modified version of the GHG reduction formula, as shown below.

$$\%\ \text{VMT Reduction} = \frac{((1 - B) \times C) + \left(B \times \frac{D}{E}\right)}{C} - 1$$

Sources

- California Air Resources Board (CARB). 2020. *EMFAC2017 v1.0.3*. August. Available: https://arb.ca.gov/emfac/emissions-inventory. Accessed: January 2021.
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). 2017. *National Household Travel Survey–2017 Table Designer*. Travel Day VT by HH_CBSA by TRPTRANS by TRIPPURP. Available: https://nhts.ornl.gov/. Accessed: January 2021.
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). 2007. *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Solomon, S., D. Qin, M. Manning, Z. Chen, M. Marquis, K. B. Averyt, M. Tignor and H.L. Miller (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 996 pp. Available: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar4/wg1/. Accessed: January 2021.
- San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). 2019. *Mobility Management VMT Reduction Calculator Tool–Design Document*. June. Available: https://www.icommutesd.com/docs/default-source/planning/tool-design-document_final_7-17-19.pdf?sfvrsn=ec39eb3b_2. Accessed: January 2021.