



smartrips.org

GOing Forward

September 2016



Annual Fall VanGo™ Safety Meetings

That's right, it's that time a year again; time for the annual VanGo™ safety meeting! We have prepared a presentation on winter driving hazards with a relevant role-play activity, bicycle awareness, and VanGo™ updates. PLUS, as always, we will be handing out shovels for each van and have drawings for gift cards. It proves to be an exciting event!

We will be serving a buffet lunch and/or dinner before the program begins. We look forward to seeing you all there! Remember; at least one person from each vanpool is required to attend, and we welcome the whole vanpool, if you can make it!

Save the Date!

-
Fort Collins Lunch Meeting
(for Denver metro residents)

-
Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Larimer County Courthouse Offices Building

Boyd Lake Room

200 West Oak Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524

NOON - 1:00 p.m.

Fort Collins Evening Meeting

In This Issue

Annual Safety Meeting

Annual Vanpool Survey

Budget Update

Meet the New Staff



Follow us on social media!



Wednesday, September 14, 2016
Larimer County Courthouse Offices Building
Hearing Room # 155
200 West Oak Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Greeley Evening Meeting

Thursday, September 15, 2016
Greeley Family Funplex
FunZone Room
1501 65th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80634
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Annual VanGo™ Rider Survey

The VanGo™ program will once again conduct our Annual Vanpool Rider Survey in conjunction with Way to Go (Denver's vanpool program), Metro Rides (Colorado Springs' vanpool program), and Commute Ride (Boise, Idaho's vanpool program).

The survey will be emailed to all VanGo™ riders the first week of October. The deadline to complete the survey is October 21st. All survey responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only. Those who complete the survey will be entered in a drawing for \$100 gift card! We encourage you to complete the survey.

For questions regarding the Annual Rider Survey, please contact Valerie Vollman at (970)221-6243 or vvollman@nfrmpo.org

VanGo™ Continues Toward Financial Independence and Sustainability

For many years, the VanGo™ program was subsidized by Surface Transportation Program (STP) Metro funds that are typically used to fund the maintenance and operations of transportation improvements such as bridge and road repair/improvement. With transportation funding declining, while the costs of transportation operation, maintenance, and improvements continue to increase, the NFRMPO Council directed VanGo™ staff to phase out the STP Metro funding support. This summer, the STP Metro funds will be used for two projects that will improve I-25; the additional southbound lane near Berthoud and the reconstruction of the Crossroads interchange.

Since 2012, the fare increases have been mid-range. The VanGo™ program has worked to reduce costs and make changes that will further reduce costs in the future. Although the program is not fully funded without financial support, the VanGo™ Program is recommending no fare increase in 2017, with the remaining funds required to sustain the program taken from reserves. The past fare increases have been:

- 2017 - 0%
- 2016 - 1%
- 2015 - 1%
- 2014 - 5%
- 2013 - 3%
- 2012 - 5%
- 2011 - 0%
- 2010 - 0%
- 2009: 10%
- 2008: 10%
- 2007: 10%
- 2006: 0%
- 2005: 0%
- 2004: 0%
- 2003; 0%

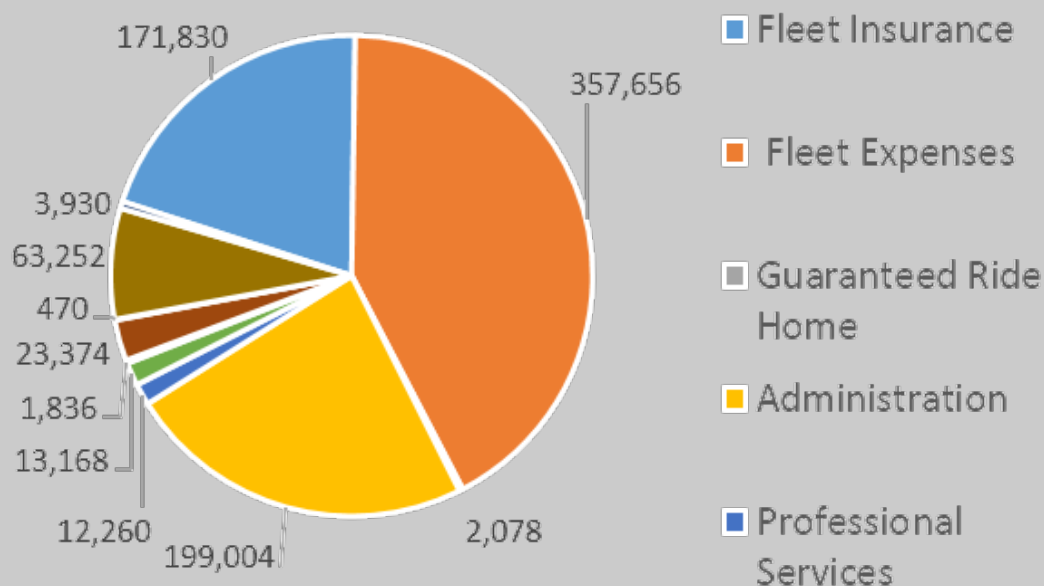
The VanGo™ 2016 estimated operating expenses and revenues are depicted in the following charts. Operating expenses for 2016 are expected to outpace operating revenues by \$29,644, or 3.8 percent, reserves.

Gas prices are currently not predicted to increase and may decrease, a pressure which has been whittling away at our historically high ridership. However, insurance expense went up 83% due to claims.

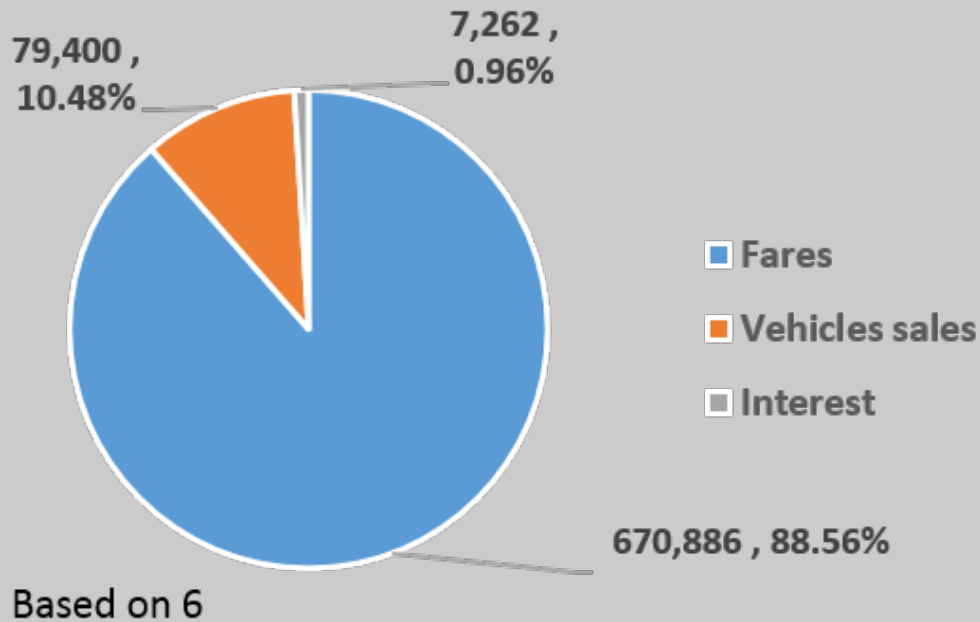
Due to contracting issues and the low amount of FASTER funds allocated, the program did not purchase any new vans in 2015. In 2016, VanGo™ was awarded \$200,000 in FASTER funds that will be used to purchase vans. For 2017, the Colorado Department of Transportation awarded the VanGo program \$185,600 for new vans. These purchases will continue impact the age and mileage on the VanGo™ fleet in a positive way.

The projected VanGo™ Expenses and Revenues have been depicted in the following charts. Other Fleet expenses includes fuel, maintenance, washes, etc.

2016 VanGo™ Expenses



2016 VanGo™ Revenues



For questions regarding the VanGo™ Financials, please contact Terri Blackmore at 970-416-2174 or tblackmore@nfrmpo.org

VanGo™ Staff



(left to right) **Shane Armstrong**- Vanpool Coordinator, **Merideth Kimsey**- Accounting Clerk/NTD Reporter, **Crystal Hedberg**- Finance and Operations Manager, **Valerie Vollman**- Administrative Specialist/ Billing

Shane Armstrong- Vanpool Coordinator

Shane Armstrong, the new Vanpool Services Coordinator, comes to the VanGo™ program with decades of experience providing exceptional customer service in different arenas. He most recently worked in community building and engagement for the Town of Wellington, Colorado's Main Streets Program, but, it was his time in travel that really honed the skills he brings to VanGo™. With a background in managing complex international itineraries and opening and building new travel offices, he's not one that fears a complicated situation. He takes great pleasure in not only providing exceptional service but ensuring that a program runs smoothly.

We welcome Shane to VanGo™ and know you'll love having him here too. He is also a well shown and commissioned artist and his work can be seen in the Riverside, California Art Museum and at various gallery shows across the country

Shane can be reached at sarmstrong@nfrmpo.org or 970-221-6859

Valerie Vollman- Administrative Specialist

Valerie has joined the VanGo™ team in as the Administrative Specialist, with her primary responsibility being billing. Her background in customer service and various administrative positions has made her an integral part of the team. Native to Chicago, Valerie moved to Fort Collins eight years ago to attend Colorado State University and received her Bachelor of Arts degree with concentrations in business administration and anthropology. She will be your contact for any VanGo™ billing or administrative questions.

Valerie can be reached at vollman@nfrmpo.org or (970)221-6243