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Issue: 31

September 2017

VANGO™ SAFETY MEETING RECAP

As many of you know, we broke from tradition this year and held one large gathering of vanpoolers at the Best Western Crossroads Inn and Conference Center for our 2017 Annual VanGo™ Safety Meeting. With over 80+ attendees representing our 54 active routes it was a vibrant and lively evening. Read a brief recap of the meeting below. You may also view the presentation by following the link to our new website www.vangovanpools.org, logging in, and going to 'documents' (search for 2017 Safety Meeting Presentation)

Meeting Recap:

With the single location it allowed the VanGo™ staff, our participants, and all three of our maintenance crews to mingle and get to know each other.

CDOT was kind enough to supply us with two wonderful speakers; one focused on cone zone safety and one filling us all in on upcoming I-25 construction and park-n-ride upgrades.

We also had a nice overview of aggressive driving; what is considered aggressive driving and its impacts on incidents. As well as a brief discussion on road rage and the correct way to handle it if you find yourself a victim.

Other important topics covered for the upcoming year:

There will be no fare change for 2018.

We will be having a fare evaluation completed for the program. NTD Log reporting will be going web-based in 2018.

ANNIVERSARIES

Thank you for 10 years of ridership!

Phillip Leffler

Special thanks to Leon Laub for 20 years of ridership.

Toyota Power Door Recall Fix

Toyota has notified us that a fix is now available for the power door safety recall. Your maintenance facilities are working with Toyota to order the part and

Road Rage

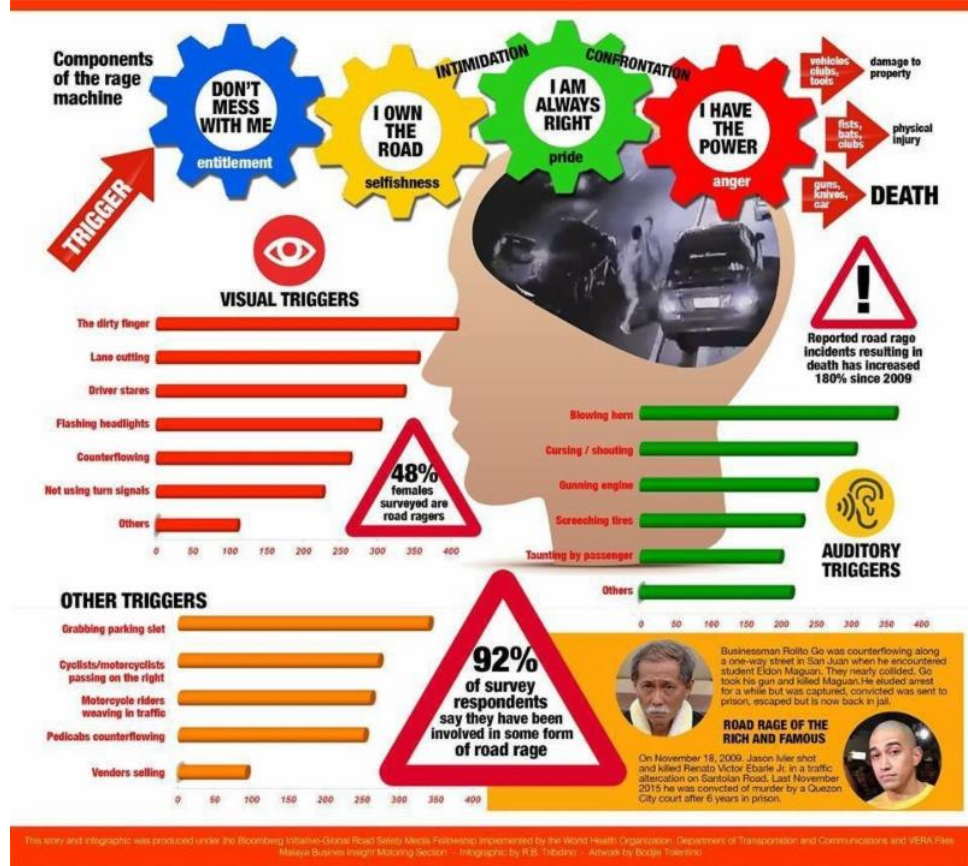
schedule the fix. Please be advised until the fix has been completed on your van it's imperative that you leave your power sliding door disengaged and only manually operated.

Tolls

This is just a simple reminder that all toll charges are the responsibility of the van that incurred the charges. If we receive license plates tolls for a van we will pass those charges along to the route. How you handle these charges should be arranged with your coordinator.

A special note to those who are switched into different or new vans. Do be sure to not only take your transponder with you, but you also **MUST NOTIFY** Express tolls of your new license plate # or you will receive license plate tolls.

Van Lock-Outs



According to a recent AAA study nearly 80% of drivers "expressed significant anger, aggression, or road rage behind the wheel at least once in the past year." As vanpoolers traveling long distances daily we're sure you've been witness to this behavior on occasion. In fact what prompts this short topic is an incident where one of our vans was followed by angry driver. Thankfully, our vanpooler responded correctly. So, what did he do?

- Avoided eye contact
- Did not respond
- Drove to a public area (and actually circled the parking lot a few times)
- Stopped, but did not exit the van or roll down the window

Keep in mind you want to diffuse the situation, not further heighten the tension.

VanGo Continues Toward 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 transportation improvements for bridges and roads.

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

Lock-outs are not considered van breakdowns and your maintenance facility does not need to be notified. In the case of a lock out, the riders should contact a tow service or locksmith. All fees associated with a van lock out are the rider's responsibility and will not be reimbursed by VanGo™.

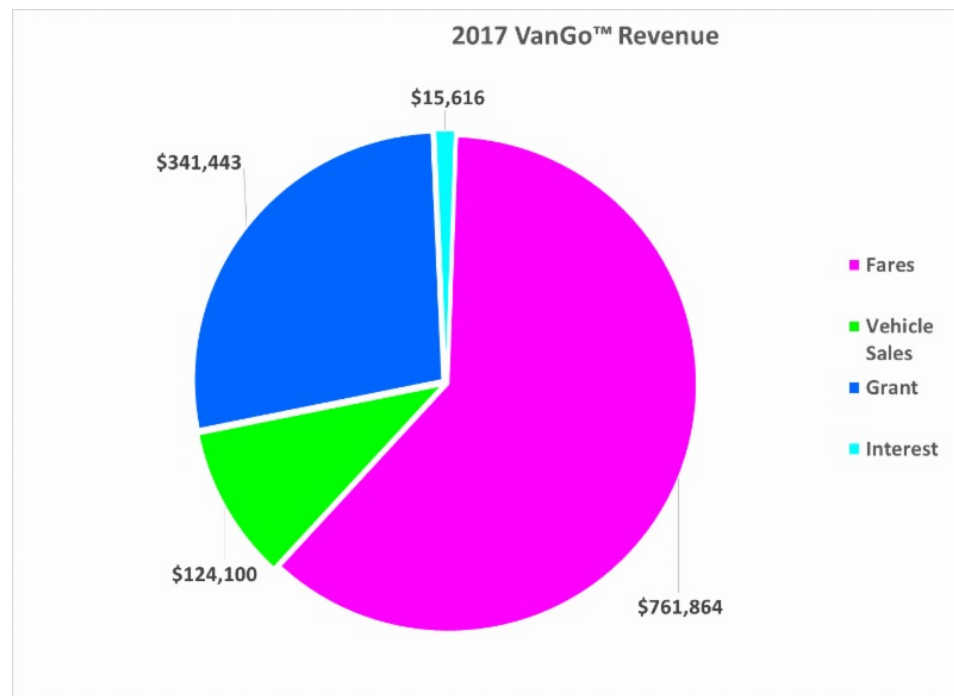
VanGo™ Program is recommending no fare increase in 2018, with the remaining funds required to sustain the program taken from reserves. The past fare increases have been:

2018-0%	2010-0%
2017-0%	2009-10%
2016-1%	2008-10%
2015-1%	2007-10%
2014-5%	2006-0%
2013-3%	2005-0%
2012-5%	2004-0%
2011-0%	2003-0%

The VanGo™ 2017 estimated revenues and operating expenses are depicted in the following charts. Operating revenues for 2017 are expected to outpace operating expenses by \$123,165, due to van sales that have not been replaced.

Winter Driving Tips

Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Slower acceleration is the best method for gaining traction and avoiding skids. Decelerating by shifting down, if your car is equipped, or letting off the accelerator sooner than normal will help reduce skids. Adjust your speed to the conditions (and keep in mind this may mean an earlier start to make it to work on-time.) Give other drivers more space. Stopping



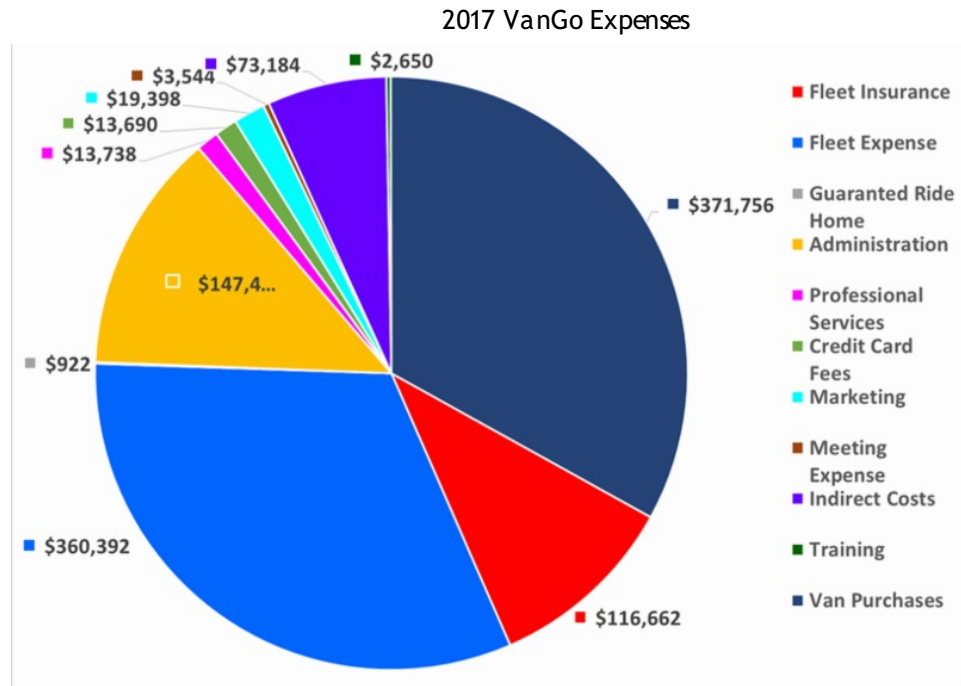
Gas prices are currently not predicted to increase and may decrease, a pressure which has been whittling away at our historically high ridership. The impact of the hurricanes may change this forecast with refineries shut down for extended periods.

In 2016, VanGo™ was awarded \$200,000 in FASTER funds used to purchase 10 Dodge vans. For 2017, the Colorado Department of Transportation awarded the VanGo program \$185,600 for eight new vans. Six Toyota Vans have been delivered and two are expected soon. These purchases will continue to reduce the age and mileage on the VanGo™ fleet in a positive way.

The projected VanGo™ Expenses and Revenues have been

distance is greatly increased on snow and ice. If you can keep moving, even if it's at a crawl, go this route to avoid needing to accelerate a start on a slick surface. Don't stop going up a hill. Pack a small emergency kit (i.e. snacks, blankets, etc.). Gauge the conditions and recognize when your best choice is to stay off the roads.

depicted in the following charts. Other Fleet expenses includes fuel, maintenance, washes, etc.



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

Winter Ready

We all know Colorado weather can change from one minute to the next. Make sure your van is winter for the surprise October snow storm-should it come. Ensure that you have a snow brush and the snow shovel in your van. We'd also recommend packing some snacks-protein bars are a great option-on the off chance you find yourself stuck for a while.

CONTACT INFO

Construction Updates

Construction Update: I-25 at Crossroads Boulevard

Construction continues at I-25 over Crossroads Boulevard as crews work to complete the southbound bridge. In August, crews diverted all traffic to the completed northbound bridge. Because the bridge was built with 28-foot shoulders to accommodate future Express Lanes, the bridge will be able to handle both northbound and southbound flows while the southbound bridge is constructed. Construction on the south bound bridge is expected to be completed and original traffic configuration restored in December. In the meantime, work will move forward on Crossroads Boulevard, with an expected completion date in January 2018. Drivers should expect to see flaggers directing traffic along Crossroads.

Normal work hours for the overall project are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, with some nighttime and weekend work as needed. Some lane closures are expected at night.

Project updates will be posted at:

<https://www.codot.gov/projects/i25crossroadsbridge>.

Sign up for email alerts here:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CODOT/subscriber/new>

US34 Update Big Thompson Canyon

Questions:

[Shane Armstrong](#)

VanGo™ Website:

www.vangovanpools.org

VanGo™ Social Media



In accordance with CDOT's accelerated plan for permanent repairs to US34 in Big Thompson Canyon, US34 will be closed to through traffic from mile point 66 to mile point 83 starting October 2, 2017. Like last year, the canyon will reopen prior to Memorial Day weekend 2018. Canyon residents will again be provided permits to provide restricted access in the mornings and evenings. Full closures are expected for several months from mile point 72 to mile point 74 as crews work near the landslide. During this time, residents with permits may use County Road 43, all others must use the US36 detour.

The canyon will be open to all drivers Thursday, November 23, and from Saturday, December 23, through Tuesday, January 2. Pilot cars will direct traffic; permits are not required. Although the canyon will reopen May 2018, additional river restoration, bridge work, and off-corridor work is expected to continue into fall and winter 2018. For more information visit:

<https://www.codot.gov/projects/floodrelatedprojects/us-34-big-thompson-canyon-1>

