



Using Zimride Safely

Zimride is a great way to save money, green your transportation and meet new people. You just want to be sure you're doing it safely. Remember, only people with "umich.edu" e-mail addresses have access to the site, so you can not only rely on their Zimride profile, but can also look at the U-M directory (directory.umich.edu) or use Facebook as well. Here are a few other things to think about:

If I add a ride, am I obligated to take anyone who requests a ride?

No, absolutely not. We recommend only offering rides to people you trust. Spend a few minutes evaluating their profile and consider scheduling a phone interview.

This is my first time carpooling. What are some tips?

- Consider meeting at a neutral place
- Ask questions and trust your instincts (see below)
- If you feel uncomfortable about someone, don't carpool with them!

What are some questions I might ask?

Getting in touch ahead of time and making sure you feel comfortable is important. You can figure-out logistics (where to meet and when, how much each person will pay etc.) and just chat. If you want some more specific details about safety, you could ask (or be prepared to answer):

- What is your past driving record?
- How fast do you normally drive?
- Do you have insurance?
- Have you used Zimride before and could I talk with someone you've driven with?
- What kind of car do you drive? When did it last get a tune-up?
- How will we deal with any potential mechanical difficulties on the road?

If preparing a regular commute or for a long trip, create a contact sheet with the name, phone number, address and emergency contact information for each person.

Are there any insurance or liability issues I need to be aware of?

Insurance policies vary, and it is a good idea to check your policy — primarily the Exceptions/Exclusions portions. General liability insurance covers passengers, and most policies would not exclude carpool members, but it is worth checking. Another good reason to put in a call to your agent is to see if you qualify for a carpooling discount.

Remember, most people using Zimride are using it for the same reasons you are: they want to cut their costs and be green. So just use your common sense, and enjoy the ride!