



Club Rideshare

March 2025 Newsletter



Vanpooling May Be More Affordable Than You Think

A vanpool is a sort of “super carpool”—a group of five or more people who commute together in a leased van, splitting expenses. It’s a great way to get to work without the stress of daily driving.

Did you know it can also be a bargain? That’s because in a vanpool, you’re not footing the entire bill for gas—plus you’re saving on wear and tear on your car.

If you’ve thought about vanpooling but worry it might be out of your budget, here are some deals that bring costs down:

1. If you start a new vanpool, you could be eligible for a **\$300 start-up bonus** through the County.
2. Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) offers **subsidies of up to \$800 a month toward vanpool lease costs**. Qualifying vanpools earn \$600 every month. Additional monthly subsidies of \$100 are available if you operate at 85% or higher capacity with an 8-passenger van and \$100 if you lease a zero-emissions van.
3. Sign up to pay for vanpool fares through the Rideshare Office using pre-tax dollars to **save money by reducing your overall taxable income**.
4. Vanpooling will allow you to join Club Rideshare, **earning a \$40 bonus** (or a \$15 annual renewal bonus). You’ll also be entered into monthly drawings for \$25.

Better Connections on OC Bus

OC Bus made several adjustments to its schedule last month to improve service for riders. One of the major changes: Buses at the Laguna Hills Transportation Center now wait five minutes between arriving and departing. If you’re transferring from other routes, this gives you more opportunity to make your bus connection—so there’s less waiting overall.

See all the service changes in effect at [octa.net](https://www.octa.net).

Ride Arrow for Just \$1

Riders can board Metrolink’s Arrow service for only \$1 through March. Arrow trains serve five stations and cover a nine-mile route between the cities of San Bernardino and Redlands.



The discounted fare promotion includes free transfers to Omnitrans and Beaumont Transit.

Find out more at metrolinktrains.com/arrow.

Free Wilderness Hikes

OCTA oversees more than 1,300 acres of protected wilderness. To encourage people to appreciate the environment, they hold a series of guided wilderness hikes through these

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5. If you don't mind driving, see if you can volunteer to be the driver in exchange for free or reduced fares. (Many vanpools use this arrangement, while others split driving duties among riders.)



6. Vanpools that travel the 91 or 405 Express Lanes can ride in them free or at a discount—saving money on tolls while still shaving time off the commute.

Ready to get started?

To see if there's a seat open on a vanpool serving your commute, log in at ridematch.info.

If there's not an available vanpool, start one! The OCTA vanpool department can help you arrange leasing, find riders, apply for subsidies and more. Contact Kristopher Hewkin at 714.560.5331, khewkin@octa.net.

The 405 Express Lanes Celebrate One Year of Keeping Orange County Moving

Some fun facts about these lanes:

- The 405 Express Lanes cover 14 miles of I-405 between the SR-73 freeway in Costa Mesa and I-605 near the L.A. County line—one of the busiest stretches of freeway in the nation.
- They carry about twice as much carpool traffic as nearby freeways due to a policy of allowing 3+ person carpools to travel for free.
- Roughly one in four of the vehicles using the toll lanes are carpools.
- Drivers traveling northbound in the 405 Express Lanes can save 20 minutes more during weekday evening peak hours than they did in the carpool lanes that existed prior to the project's construction in 2018.
- Traveling the full 14 miles in the 405 Express Lanes takes about 15 minutes at all hours, allowing users to count on a more reliable commute.



Free Wilderness... (from page 1)

areas that are otherwise not open to the public.

Upcoming hikes are March 16 at Wren's View Preserve and June 1 at Pacific Horizon Preserve.

See the full schedule at preservingourlegacy.org.

Save the Date for the Next Lunch and Learn

The next Lunch and Learn virtual workshop is April 16, 12 to 1 p.m. Save the date, and then tune in to learn about your options for biking and walking to work—including safety information, routing, incentives, events and more.



You don't need to pre-register to attend the Lunch and Learn. Just [click on this link](#) at the start of the workshop to participate.

If you have questions, or to sign up for an email reminder, contact the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600.

Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

We'd like to extend a big "congrats" and thanks for ridesharing to the February winners of the Club Rideshare monthly prize drawing of \$25:

- Mary Morales, HCA
- Evelyn Tran, HCA
- Todd Bates, Probation



Have You Moved?

If your home address, work/home phone number or email has changed, please let the Rideshare Office know by sending an email to rideshare@ocgov.com.



Club Rideshare

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