

OC Commuter

News for a better commute from the OC Rideshare Office



How to Stop Wasting Time (and Money) on the Commute?

Motorists in Southern California waste more time sitting in traffic delays than anywhere else in the nation. If you'd like to spend less time commuting—or at least make more of your time on the road—here are some tips:

- 1. Double up.** Use any of Orange County's many (free) carpool lanes on the 405, 91 and 55 freeways. Just two people in the vehicle are required. The Rideshare Office can help you see if there's a coworker who lives near you who'd like to share the ride if you don't already have a carpool partner.



- 2. Ride in toll lanes for free.** Express Lanes on the 91 and 405 freeways allow motorists to travel in traffic congestion-free lanes for a toll. Is paying a daily toll on the commute beyond your budget? Good news: Carpools can use the lanes free or at a discount.

- On the **405 Express Lanes**, three-plus person carpools ride free. Vehicles with two or more riders are free as well during non-peak hours.

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.

Are You Paying Too Much Income Tax?

A tax season reminder from the Rideshare Office: If you vanpool or ride the bus/Metrolink to work and you aren't signed up for the Commuter Choice program, you could be paying more income tax than you need to.

Commuter Choice allows you to purchase your fares through a convenient monthly payroll deduction using pre-tax dollars. By doing so, you can reduce your taxable income—up to the IRS limit of \$325 each month.

For details, contact the Rideshare Office, or fill out and submit the **Voluntary Payroll Deduction Authorization form**.



EXPRESS LANES	EXPRESS LANES
HOV2+ NO TOLL	FASTRAK ONLY
FASTRAK REQUIRED	To BROOKHURST \$0.55
	To SR-73 \$1.55
	To BRISTOL ST \$1.45



(Continued on page 2)

OC Commuter

How to Stop Wasting Time... *(Continued from page 1)*

- On the **91 Express Lanes**, vehicles with three or more people travel toll-free except eastbound on weekdays from 4 to 6 p.m., when they receive a 50% discount.

All vehicles using Express Lanes must have a FasTrak transponder with a valid account.



- 3. Make fewer stops.** Switch to an express bus vs. local. **OC Bus offers three rapid routes** that make a third of the stops of local lines, getting you to your destination faster.

Routes include:

- 529 Fullerton – Huntington Beach
- 543 Fullerton Transportation Center – Costa Mesa
- 553 Anaheim – Costa Mesa
- 560 Santa Ana – Long Beach

- 4. Avoid traffic tie-ups by taking the train.** Especially if you travel longer distances, riding Metrolink can zip you past traffic in comfort. Visit metrolinktrains.com to see if there's a train station near your home or worksite.



If the nearest station isn't close to the office, you may be able to **grab a shuttle, bus or microtransit ride for the last leg of the journey.**

New to riding transit? You may qualify for **County fare subsidies** of 75% for the first month, 50% for the second and 25% for the third.



- 5. Try a "super carpool."** Vanpooling might save you time on the commute and can also let you make better use of your time on the road. A vanpool is a sort of "super carpool" in which a

group of people commute together on a regular basis in a leased van, splitting expenses.

You may be able to shave time off the ride by using carpool lanes or Express Lanes. Even if you can't, you'll be able to spend your commute time reading, relaxing or catching up on work instead of gripping the steering wheel.

Visit ridematch.info to see if there's a vanpool that might work for your commute.



- 6. Workout on the way to work.** Bike or walk to the office or a nearby transit station, and combine fitness with the commute. Most transit riders clock 30 minutes of walking a day. You'll not only save on gas and wear and tear on your car, but you might even be able to skip the gym membership!

"OC Buses Are Bussin'"

Have a chuckle while you hear about all that OC Bus has to offer in this Gen-Z inspired video that recently went viral...

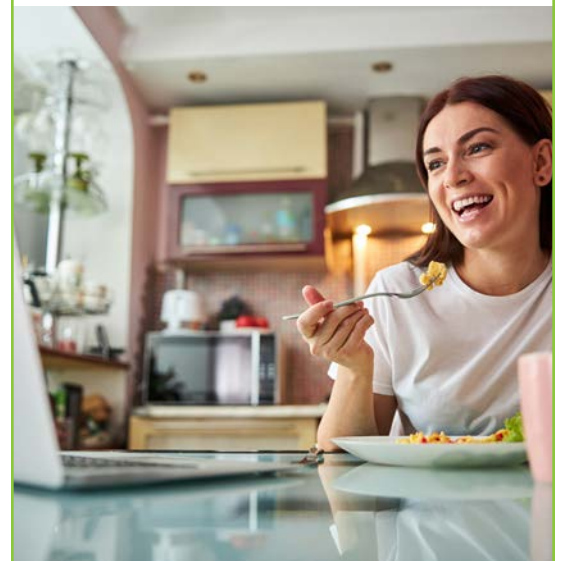


Save the Date for the Next Lunch and Learn

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.

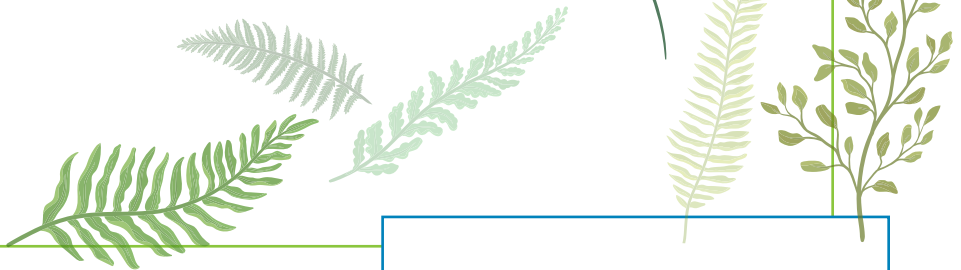


Ride Free on Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22. In celebration, rides will be free all day on **Metrolink**, **Metro Bus** and **Rail**, **OC Bus**, as well as all **San Bernardino County** and **Ventura County** transit providers.

You can also visit CoolCalifornia.org to quickly calculate your personal carbon footprint and learn ways to reduce it.

Go to earthday.org to find out about virtual and in-person Earth Day events.



What You Can Do to Stop Smog...

Choosing an alternative to driving alone is a good way to do your share for clean air. Nearly 40% of California's total emissions come from vehicles.

Did You Know...?

Pounds of CO2 Per Mile Spewed into the Air Per Mile (Per Person)



DRIVING ALONE

.96/mile

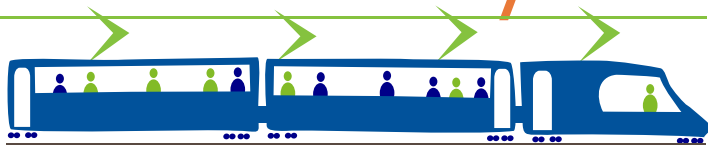


VANPOOLING

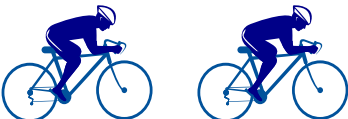
.22/mile

RIDING TRANSIT

.45/mile



BIKING/WALKING



0



IE Commuter Earth Day Contest—Pledge to Rideshare, Win Prizes

IE Commuter is celebrating Earth Day throughout April. Commuters who make the Earth Day pledge and then log their rideshare and/or telework days can win prizes including an Apple Watch, Dana Wharf Whale Watching Tickets, gift cards and more.

Each trip logged is an entry to win. The more you rideshare or telework, the better your chances to win.

The contest is open to commuters who live in Riverside or San Bernardino counties.

Visit IECommuter.org/EarthDay to take the pledge and for more information including a full list of prizes.

3 Ways to Gear Up for Bike Month

May is Bike Month, and Southern California transportation agencies are gearing up to offer special events for bicyclists all month long.

Here, we offer some tips to get ready to participate in the big event:



1. Tune it up.

If it's been a while since you've rolled out your bike, consider taking it for a tune-up to make sure it's road ready.

2. Be safe.

Visit OCTA online for [tips on bike safety](#). If you're thinking of using an electric bicycle for the commute,

[OCTA's E-Bike Guide](#) can help you navigate the different resources available, as well as the rules of the road.

3. Find a route.

You can use the recently updated [OC Bikeways map](#) or an app such as [MapMyRide](#), which identifies routes with bike lanes or fewer hills.

You may want to bike all the way to the worksite—or just as far as your nearby transit stop or station. Metrolink allows you to bring your bike onboard. OC Bus (and most transit agencies) have front-end bike racks where you can stow your bike before you board.

Bike Month Events

- Bike Week is May 12-16.
- Bike to Work Day is Thursday, May 15.
- OCTA traditionally holds a bike rally and ride prior to Bike Month – look for details at [octa.net](#).
- You can find details on Bike Month events and promotions at [metrolinktrains.com](#).

OC Commuter

Taking You Out to the Ballgame

Get to the stadium to cheer on your favorite baseball team without dealing with the hassle and expense of driving and parking.



The Angels Express Train

Metrolink's Angels Express will be available for select home games with trains operating from Oceanside, L.A. Union Station and Riverside-Downtown to Anaheim, just steps from the stadium. Round-trip fares are only \$10, and kids 17 and under ride free.



The Dodger Stadium Express

Ride Metrolink to L.A. Union Station, then catch the free [Dodger Stadium Express](#) bus to the ballpark for every home game.

Construction to Begin on the 91 Freeway

OCTA and Caltrans will break ground soon on a project to improve 5.6 miles of SR-91 through Anaheim, Fullerton, Orange, Yorba Linda and Placentia.

The project will improve mobility throughout the corridor, reduce weaving and merging between ramps and improve on- and off-ramps, sidewalks and bike lanes.

If you travel this section of the 91, you can sign up for construction and email alerts at [octa.net](#).



OC Commuter

Email: rideshare@ocgov.com

Phone: 714.834.7600

Web: <https://hrs.ocgov.com/rideshare>

OC Rideshare Program Office

County of Orange

Human Resource Services

400 W. Civic Center Dr., 5th Floor
Santa Ana, CA 92701

