



# Club Rideshare

August 2025 Newsletter



## Back to School – Free and Discount Rides for Students

Students can ride free or at a discount on many transit providers throughout Southern California. Here's how:

### Orange County

Youth ages 6-18 can ride free on OC Bus with a **Youth Ride Free pass**. The pass is available directly from participating schools or you can request one from Orange County Transportation Authority at [octa.net](https://www.octa.net).

### Metrolink

As part of a recent fare restructuring, Metrolink no longer offers free rides for students. However, students get a 50% discount—including K-12, trade school, college students and student interns—to travel anywhere on the Metrolink system.

### Los Angeles County

With an active **Metro GoPass TAP card**, students at participating K-12 schools and community colleges can ride free on Metro Bus and Rail as well as more than a dozen L.A. County transit providers.



## Before You Hop in a Carpool or Express Toll Lane, Here's What You Need to Know...

If you carpool to work—or are thinking about starting—you may be able to shave time off the drive by using carpool lanes or express toll lanes. Here are eight important things you need to know to take advantage of Southern California's vast network of these lanes:

1. You can cruise past traffic in express toll lanes even if you're on a budget. Carpools with three or more people can ride free or at a discount in Orange County's express toll lanes on the 91 and 405 freeways. You must have a FasTrak account and a transponder—even if using the lanes for free.



- On the **91 Express Lanes**, carpools are required to drive through the HOV3+ Carpool Lane at each toll point to receive the carpool discount.
- On the **405 Express Lanes**, carpools must have a working transponder set to the number of people in the vehicle.

2. All regular carpool lanes in Orange County are free and open to carpools with a minimum of two occupants. No transponder is required.

3. Yes, kids count as carpool passengers.

(continued)



## Before You Hop in a Carpool... (from page 1)

4. Orange County changed from double yellow lines to double white lines to indicate where you cannot cross into a carpool lane. If you see a single solid white line, you can enter/exit the carpool lane, but only if it's safe to do so. Stretches of carpool lane with dashed white lines are the preferred entry/exit points.
5. You don't have to worry about getting stuck at work in an emergency or work unexpected overtime on a day you carpooled to work. You can be reimbursed for the cost of a taxi, Uber/Lyft or transit ride (up to two times a fiscal year) through the County's **Guaranteed Ride Home program**.
6. California's program that allows certain hybrid and electric vehicles to use carpool lanes— even with a single occupant— is set to expire Sept. 30. That means you may no longer be able to drive solo in the carpool lane in an EV.  
Although Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation that extends the program to Jan. 1, 2027, the federal government will need to allow states to extend their programs for that extension to take effect.
7. Fines for driving without the proper number of occupants vary.
  - On the 91 Express Lanes, as of Aug. 1, occupancy in the 3+ carpool lane will be verified. If fewer than three occupants are detected, the toll and a \$5 fee will be charged.
  - On the 405 Express Lanes, each violation is assessed a \$25 initial penalty in addition to the amount of the toll.
  - Getting caught driving in the carpool lane without enough occupants (unless with a valid EV sticker) is a minimum \$490 fine.
8. The Rideshare Office can help you find a carpool partner—someone who works and lives near you and has a similar schedule. You can also get a list of potential carpool partners at [ridematch.info](http://ridematch.info) or by calling 511.



## All Aboard Summer!

Metrolink is celebrating summer with 42 trip ideas that you can reach via train. Check out their travel tips at [metrolinktrains.com](http://metrolinktrains.com). Then enter to win two roundtrip Metrolink tickets and a monthly \$100 gift card to splurge on your journey.

You can also [take a fun quiz](#) to find your ideal destination.

Riding Metrolink is an affordable way to get to your favorite summer spots without the hassle of traffic and expense of parking.

Of course, it can help you get to work faster and with less stress. When you pay for [Metrolink fares via the payroll deduction](#) through the Rideshare Office, you'll also save on taxes.

## Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Launi Nolan, Superior Court
- Roylyn Burton, SSA
- Ann Luu, OCCCR

## 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@ceo.oc.gov](mailto:rideshare@ceo.oc.gov).



## OC Fair Express Is Back

Going to the OC Fair? Skip the hassle and expense of driving and parking by taking the **OC Fair Express**. It offers direct bus service to and from the fairgrounds and runs Saturdays and Sundays through Aug. 17. Fares are only \$2 each way, and youth 18 and under ride free.

You can catch it at locations in Anaheim, Huntington Beach, Laguna Hills, Fullerton and Santa Ana.



## Club Rideshare

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