



Club Rideshare

July 2025 Newsletter



Do You Drive an EV?

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.



Carpools of two or more people can use carpool lanes at no cost at all times.

Ride RTA for 25 Cents—Plus Youth Ride Free

Now through Aug. 31, you can ride Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) buses for only 25 cents. The discount rate applies on all fixed-route buses and GoMicro shuttles every day, including weekends.

Also, youth 18 and under can ride RTA buses for free.

Find out more at [riversidetransit.com](https://www.riversidetransit.com).



5 Ways Hybrid Workers Can Save on the Days They Commute

Just because you telework some days doesn't mean you're doomed to the expense and hassle of driving alone on the days you commute. Here are five ways to save time and money:

- 1. Help an existing two-person carpool qualify to use Express Lanes.** Carpools with three or more passengers ride free or at a discount on the 91 and 405 Express Lanes (when using a transponder). The Rideshare Office may be able to match you with a current two-person carpool that would appreciate the chance to ride free in these time-saving lanes if they added another person, even if not every day.



- 2. Try transit.** Give riding the bus or train a try and you can be reimbursed for a portion of the cost for three months (75% the first month, 50% the second and 25% the third). Even occasional transit riders can qualify provided you've never claimed the incentive before—but the more frequently you ride, the more you save.



- 3. Carpool when you can.** Your schedule may match up with another hybrid worker who'd like to share the ride to save on gas. Or there may

(continued)



5 Ways Hybrid Workers... (from page 1)

be a full-time commuter who'd like to carpool a couple days a week. You'll not only save on gas, but you may even be able to use time-saving carpool lanes (which are free for two-person carpools in Orange County).



4. Buy a more flexible Metrolink pass. If you commute fewer than three times a week, the monthly pass isn't the bargain it is for daily commuters. The train can still be a deal, however. Metrolink now offers a \$15 day pass for unlimited rides all day on weekdays. It's not only faster than sitting in traffic, but the new daily discount fare can make it especially affordable if you have a long commute. A 5-Day Flex Pass also saves over the cost of paying per ride.

5. Sign up to pay transit costs using payroll deduction. No matter how often you ride, if you **purchase fares through the rideshare office using payroll deduction**, you'll pay using pre-tax dollars. That lowers your overall taxable income, saving you money.



Metrolink New Fares, Changes in Passes Now in Effect

Metrolink introduced a new fare structure on July 1. Among the changes:

- **Monthly Pass Fare Reduction:** The price of a monthly pass dropped by an average of 10%. It continues to be the most cost-effective option for people who ride the train at least three times a week.

- **New Passes:** Metrolink now features a SoCal Day Pass that offers unlimited rides for \$10 on weekends and \$15 on weekdays. An LA Zone Pass will be \$5 for rides all day between select stations near downtown Los Angeles.

• Streamlining Pass Options:

The round-trip, 10-Day Flex and 7-Day pass options have been discontinued. The 5-Day Flex Pass is still available. In addition, the Student Adventure Pass program has ended and is replaced with a 50% discount. Other everyday discounts haven't changed, and veterans now qualify for a 10% discount.

Find out more at metrolinktrains.com.



San Clemente Rail Service Now Open



Good news: Passenger rail service through San Clemente reopened in June.

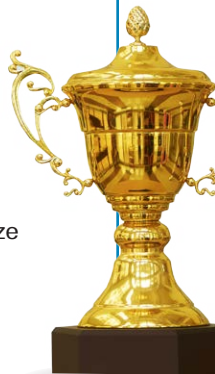
It had been suspended since April to allow crews to reinforce sections of track at immediate risk from landslides and coastal erosion.

The section repaired is the only coastal rail link between San Diego and Orange counties. Over the past four years, San Clemente's eroding bluffs have repeatedly forced the closure of the rail line that had otherwise operated largely uninterrupted for more than 125 years.

Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Christina Avila, ROV
- Tung Wong, OCHCA
- Carlota M Serna, CSS



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.



Club Rideshare

Email: rideshare@ceo.oc.gov
Phone: 714.834.7600
Web: <https://hrs.oc.gov/rideshare>

OC Rideshare Program Office
County of Orange
Human Resource Services
400 W. Civic Center Dr.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

