



# Club Rideshare

December 2025 Newsletter



## Keep an Eye Out for Your 2026 Perk Pass

Important news for County and Superior Court employees who ride transit: Your 2026 Perk Pass will be mailed to your home address during the first two weeks of December.



If you've moved in the last year, contact the Rideshare Office immediately to ensure you receive your pass.

The new annual Perk Pass is valid from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2026.

## IRS Cap Up \$15

For the 2026 tax year, the IRS has increased the pre-tax limit for transit and vanpool fares from \$325 to \$340 per month.

If you vanpool or ride transit and you aren't paying for fares using payroll deduction, you could be missing out on tax savings. To find out how to sign up, contact the Rideshare Office at [rideshare@ceo.oc.gov](mailto:rideshare@ceo.oc.gov) or 714.834.7600.

## 6 Surprising Ways Vanpooling Could Be a Better Way to Get to Work

A vanpool is group of people who commute together regularly in a leased van, splitting expenses. It's ideal for commutes of 15 or more miles each way. Here, we highlight a few facts so you can see if you might benefit from making the leap into vanpooling!



- 1. It's one of the least stressful commuting options.** Typically, one or two people sign on to handle driving duties (often in exchange for a reduced fare). The rest get to relax on the ride however they like. "A vanpool can be a quiet and comfortable ride where people drink their coffee, listen to music or podcasts, scroll their phones, have a chat with a fellow rider—or simply enjoy a few calm minutes before work," says Candace Garcia,

rideshare program consultant.

Each vanpool typically sets its own rules and policies to make it as good a fit for everyone as possible.

(continued)



## 6 Surprising Ways Vanpooling Could Be... (from page 1)

**2. You may be able to vanpool even if you work a hybrid schedule.** Yes, vanpools are best for employees who work regular hours, but that doesn't have to mean regular hours *every day*. Because riders are splitting costs—**plus there are available subsidies of up to \$800 a month toward lease costs**—vanpooling may still be an affordable option even if you're commuting into the office as few as three days a week.

**3. Vanpools don't require a lot of riders to qualify for subsidies.** Orange County Transportation Authority's vanpool subsidy is available to leased vanpools that seat seven to 14 passengers. The program only requires 50% occupancy to get started.

**4. Vanpools can breeze past traffic in carpool and express lanes—free or at a discount.** If you have at least two people in the van you can ride in any of Orange County's time-saving carpool lanes.

You'll also get a bargain on tolls on express lanes (a valid transponder and account is required).

- 91 Express Lanes: 3+ person carpools/vanpools ride free except eastbound weekdays from 4 to 6 p.m. when they get a 50% discount.

- 405 Express Lanes: 2-person carpools/vanpools ride free during non-peak hours, and 3+ person carpools ride free at all times.

**5. You'll not only save on gas costs and wear and tear to your vehicle, but you could also save on income taxes.** Vanpoolers can sign up to pay for fares though the Rideshare Office using pre-tax dollars, lowering your overall taxable income.

**6. You may be able to find a seat on an existing vanpool—or set up a new vanpool.**

To find if there's an open seat on a vanpool, log into [ridematch.info](http://ridematch.info). Enter information about your commute such as where you live and work and your schedule. You'll get an instant list of any vanpools on your route.

If there's no vanpool serving your commute, it's easier than you may think to get one off the ground. Contact the Rideshare Office for help. They can identify coworkers with a similar commute. They'll even set up a "meet and greet" of your potential vanpool riders.

## Holiday Happenings

### Orange County Holiday Events

Avoid holiday traffic and enjoy events like the Festival of Lights and ice skating by taking transit. OCTA offers a **2025 holiday event list** with directions via OC Bus or Metrolink.



### Metrolink Holiday Sweepstakes

Enter the **Metrolink**

**Holiday Sweepstakes** by Dec. 21 for a chance to win two promotional roundtrip Metrolink tickets (valued at \$110) and a \$100 gift card. No payment or purchase necessary to enter.

## Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- David Gunnell, OCSD
- Angel Barbosa, SSA
- Jennifer Stanley, Courts



## 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).



## Club Rideshare

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