



Club Rideshare

February 2026 Newsletter



8 Things You Need to Know About Express Lanes

If you're sitting in traffic on the freeway watching cars zip by in the express lane, you may decide it's worth the toll to hop into the lane—even if just on occasion. Before you do, here's what you need to know:

1. You must have a transponder in your vehicle and valid account to use express lanes. **The cost to open an account** and fees varies depending on how often you plan to use the lanes.
When you sign up, your account allows you to use any express lane in Southern California.
2. You may have heard that 3+ person carpools can use express lanes for free. What many people don't know is that the **405 Express Lanes** also allow 2+ carpools to ride free during non-peak hours. These include weekdays (10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.) and weekends (12 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 7 – 12 p.m.).
On the **91 Express Lanes**, 3+ person carpools currently ride free except eastbound weekdays from 4 to 6 p.m., when they get a 50% discount.

3. To ride free or at a discount, you need an active account and a FasTrak switchable transponder, set to the number of people in the vehicle (which must meet minimum occupancy requirements).

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Ride Free on Transit Equity Day

Transit Equity Day is Feb. 4. In honor of Rosa Parks' birthday, it's a day that promotes making transit affordable and accessible to people in all communities.

Rides will be free on OC Bus, Metro Bus and Rail, Riverside Transit Agency (RTA), and all San Bernardino County and Ventura County buses.



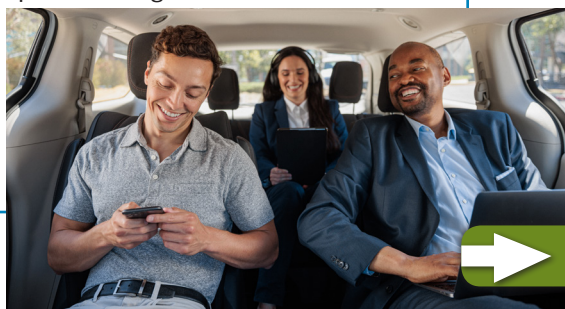
Fares are also free all day on Metrolink trains throughout Southern California. Simply arrive at the station and board the train (no ticket required). Note: Pacific Surfliner (including codeshare Rail 2 Rail) will not be offering free rides.

Don't Forget to Renew Your Club Rideshare Membership for 2026

The OC Rideshare Office sent out emails last month to all current Club Rideshare members to renew their participation, which is required annually.

When you renew, you'll get a \$15 bonus in your paycheck—plus you'll continue to qualify for monthly \$25 prize drawings.

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Express Lanes...(from page 1)

4. The **Riverside County section of the 91 Express Lanes** now uses an Occupancy Detection System that digitally counts the number of people in a vehicle. Even if your transponder is set to three occupants, if you have fewer than that, you will be fined.

5. Violation rates include the posted toll as well as a penalty fee. On the 405 and 91 Express Lanes, the penalty is \$25. (Metro ExpressLanes on the 10 and 110 freeways recently dropped the penalty to an \$8 processing fee.)



6. Clean air vehicles no longer qualify for toll discounts.

7. Violation notices are mailed to the address registered to your vehicle. If you receive a text message or email regarding unpaid tolls or violations, it is likely a phishing scheme. You should not respond to the message or click any links in it.

8. Sitting in traffic isn't the only alternative to express lanes! Metrolink's 91/Perris Valley Line trains runs parallel to portions of the 91 Freeway. It could be a faster way to commute without having to get on the freeway at all.

You may also have access to time-saving carpools lane along your route to work. Only two occupants are required to use them, and they're always free.

Lunch and Learn: Are You Missing Out on Rideshare Perks?

The next Lunch and Learn is Feb. 19, 12 to 1 p.m. Tune in to learn the many ways the County rideshare program can save you money—from incentives to rebates to tax breaks and more.

Lunch and Learn virtual workshops are offered every other month by the Rideshare Office. To register for the Lunch and Learn, [click here](#).

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



Club Rideshare

To be in Club Rideshare, you must have carpooled, vanpooled, rode bus/rail, biked or walked to work 20 or more times over the past 90 days. Driving an electric vehicle and the days you telework also count toward your rideshare totals.

Complete a renewal application directly online or **download a PDF** that you can print out, fill in and submit to the Rideshare Office.

Contact the Rideshare Office if you didn't get the email or if you have any questions.

OC Bus Service Changes Coming this Month

OC Bus this month will be making schedule adjustments on bus routes to improve service and better meet riders' needs. To see if your route is impacted—or if the changes mean you may have a better option on OC Bus—visit [octa.net](https://www.octa.net).



Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- William Wyman, Health Care Agency
- Jon Humann, Audit Controller
- Elisa Ma, 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@ceo.oc.gov.



Club Rideshare

Email: rideshare@ceo.oc.gov
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