



# Club Rideshare

January 2025 Newsletter



## Renew Your Club Rideshare Membership, Get \$15

It's that time of year to renew your Club Rideshare membership. The OC Rideshare office will be sending out emails by the end of this month to all current Club Rideshare members to renew their participation.

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

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.

Contact the Rideshare Office if you have any questions. You can now use this link to [complete a renewal application directly online](#) or [download a PDF that you can print out](#), fill in and submit to the Rideshare Office.

## 3 Changes Coming in 2025 that Could Impact Your Commute

Plenty of changes are in the works in transportation for the new year. Here are three:

### 1. Good news for motorists on the I-5...

Construction that began in 2019 to make improvements on the I-5 Freeway is projected to be completed early this year.

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) in

[\(continued\)](#)

## New \$2,000 E-Bike Incentive Available

The California Air Resources Board is providing incentives of up to \$2,000 toward the purchase of a new electric bicycle (e-bike).



Some of the funds are earmarked for low-income/disadvantaged applicants as well as those in a defined income range.

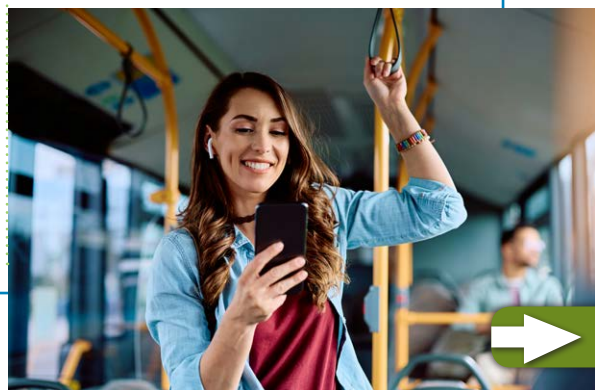
To claim a voucher, apply online and provide residency and income verification documents. Prior approval is required before purchasing an e-bike. It is open to residents aged 18 or older.

For more information or to apply, visit [ebikeincentives.org](https://ebikeincentives.org).

## Ride Free on Transit Equity Day

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

Fares will be free Feb. 4 on Metrolink trains throughout Southern California. All you have to do is simply arrive at the station and board the train [\(continued\)](#)



## Ride Free *(continued)*

(no ticket required) to ride Metrolink all day, anywhere it goes.

Rides are also free for the day on Metro Bus and Rail and Bike Share, OC Bus and all San Bernardino County and Ventura County buses.



## Costa Mesa Introduces Free Shuttle

Costa Mesa recently launched **Let's Go Costa Mesa**, an on-demand rideshare service. ADA-accessible 10-passenger vans transport riders within an area around the East 17th Street shopping district.

Vans run weekdays 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Download the Ride Circuit app through Apple Store or Google Play, or call the hotline at 949.828.2065, to schedule a pickup.

## Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Sandy Lopez, HCA
- Alexa Guzman, SSA
- James Russo, OCPW

## 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@ocgov.com](mailto:rideshare@ocgov.com).



## 3 Changes Coming in 2025... *(from page 1)*

cooperation with Caltrans has been **improving I-5 between SR-73 and El Toro Road**. The project covers 6.5 miles of I-5 through Mission Viejo, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Hills, and Lake Forest.

When complete, it will include a new general-purpose lane in each direction from Avery Parkway to Alicia Parkway.

Improvements to the carpool lanes are also part of the project. This includes an extension of the second carpool lane from Alicia Parkway to El Toro Road.

Carpool lanes are also being converted to continuous access, making it safer and easier for motorists to enter and exit the lanes at any time.

## 2. OC Streetcar is slated to open late summer.

**OC Streetcar is Orange County's first modern streetcar**. It will serve Santa Ana's historic downtown, which includes courthouses, government offices, colleges, restaurants and more.

The streetcar will operate along a 4.15-mile route, connecting with the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center (SARTC) and a new transit hub at Harbor Boulevard and Westminster Avenue in Garden Grove.

There are 16 stops along the route with 10 stops in each direction.

During construction, get discounts and deals at participating merchants as part of OCTA's **Eat, Shop, Play** program.



## 3. Transportation fringe benefit gets a raise.

You can receive transit and vanpool benefits tax-free up to \$325 a month in 2025.

That's **a \$10 monthly increase over the 2024 transportation fringe benefit**.

The Rideshare Office allows employees to purchase transit fares using payroll deduction.



## Club Rideshare

Email: [rideshare@ocgov.com](mailto: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







# Club Rideshare

February 2025 Newsletter



## Ride Free on Transit Equity Day

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

MetroLink will honor Transit Equity Day by offering free rides on trains throughout Southern California. Just arrive at the station and board the train (no ticket is required).

Rides are also free on OC Bus, as well as Metro Bus, Rail and Bike Share, and all San Bernardino County and Ventura County buses.

## 3 Helpful Resources to Deal with Traffic and Smog During Wildfires

Whether or not you are directly impacted by wildfires, you may be dealing with other fallout—such as closed roads or worries about unsafe air quality. Winds and dry conditions are an ongoing threat in Southern California, which means it's best to be prepared. Here are three resources that can help:

1. Visit [SoCal511.com](https://www.socal511.com) or call 511.

The regional transportation resource lists updated alerts and advisories on road closures and traffic hazard warnings, any impacted transit service, alternate transportation options and more.

(continued)

## "Lunch and Learn" How to Save on Your Commute

The next Lunch and Learn is Feb. 20, 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 prizes and more.

Lunch and Learn virtual workshops are offered every other month by the Rideshare Office. 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.



## Join Metrolink for a Lunar New Year Celebration

Metrolink will ring in the Lunar New Year with a celebration at its Irvine Station on Feb. 8 at 8 a.m. The event will feature refreshments, a traditional lion dance, prizes and more.

The first 100 people to arrive will get free tickets to ride the train to the Golden Dragon Parade in Los Angeles.

Get details at [octa.net](https://www.octa.net).







# Club Rideshare

## Get the New OC Bike Route Map

What's the best route to bike to work? Orange County Transportation Authority recently updated its comprehensive OC Bikeways Map.

It can help you identify where safe bikeways are available, as well as bike routes that share traffic with vehicles but connect to dedicated bike lanes. In some cases, it also notes elevation—helpful if you're looking for a less hilly ride.

The map is available [here](#).



## 3 Helpful Resources to Deal with... (from page 1)

### 2. Get Air Quality Reports.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) posts **daily updates on pollution levels**—including alerts during high-risk events such as wildfires.

### 3. Protect Yourself from Wildfire Smoke.

Learn how—now and in the future—at **Smoke Ready California**. You can download the California Smoke Spotter, a free app to find out where smoke is coming from, where it's going, and what it means for your health.

The site also offers tips for checking local air quality, creating a clean air space and other helpful resources.

## Reminder: Renew Your Club Rideshare Membership

Be sure to complete the annual renewal of your Club Rideshare membership soon. When you do, you'll get a \$15 bonus in your paycheck— plus you'll continue to qualify for \$25 prize drawings throughout the year.



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.

Contact the Rideshare Office if you have any questions. You can now **use this link to complete a renewal application directly online** or **download a PDF** that you can print out, fill in and submit to the Rideshare Office.

## 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:

- Joshua Lee, HCA
- Lisa Fernandez, CEO HRS
- Daisy Alcaraz, DA



## 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@ocgov.com](mailto:rideshare@ocgov.com).



## Club Rideshare

Email: [rideshare@ocgov.com](mailto: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.  
Santa Ana, CA 92701







# Club Rideshare

March 2025 Newsletter



## Vanpooling May Be More Affordable Than You Think

A vanpool is a sort of “super carpool”—a group of five or more people who commute together in a leased van, splitting expenses. It’s a great way to get to work without the stress of daily driving.

Did you know it can also be a bargain? That’s because in a vanpool, you’re not footing the entire bill for gas—plus you’re saving on wear and tear on your car.

If you’ve thought about vanpooling but worry it might be out of your budget, here are some deals that bring costs down:

1. If you start a new vanpool, you could be eligible for a **\$300 start-up bonus** through the County.
2. Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) offers **subsidies of up to \$800 a month toward vanpool lease costs**. Qualifying vanpools earn \$600 every month. Additional monthly subsidies of \$100 are available if you operate at 85% or higher capacity with an 8-passenger van and \$100 if you lease a zero-emissions van.
3. Sign up to pay for vanpool fares through the Rideshare Office using pre-tax dollars to **save money by reducing your overall taxable income**.
4. Vanpooling will allow you to join Club Rideshare, **earning a \$40 bonus** (or a \$15 annual renewal bonus). You’ll also be entered into monthly drawings for \$25.

## Better Connections on OC Bus

OC Bus made several adjustments to its schedule last month to improve service for riders. One of the major changes: Buses at the Laguna Hills Transportation Center now wait five minutes between arriving and departing. If you’re transferring from other routes, this gives you more opportunity to make your bus connection—so there’s less waiting overall.

See all the service changes in effect at [octa.net](https://www.octa.net).

## 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](https://metrolinktrains.com/arrow).

## Free Wilderness Hikes

OCTA oversees more than 1,300 acres of protected wilderness. To encourage people to appreciate the environment, they hold a series of guided wilderness hikes through these

*(continued)*

*(continued)*





## Vanpooling May Be More Affordable... (from page 1)

**5.** If you don't mind driving, see if you can volunteer to be the driver in exchange for free or reduced fares. (Many vanpools use this arrangement, while others split driving duties among riders.)



**6.** Vanpools that travel the 91 or 405 Express Lanes can ride in them free or at a discount—saving money on tolls while still shaving time off the commute.

### Ready to get started?

To see if there's a seat open on a vanpool serving your commute, log in at [ridematch.info](http://ridematch.info).

If there's not an available vanpool, start one! The OCTA vanpool department can help you arrange leasing, find riders, apply for subsidies and more. Contact Kristopher Hewkin at 714.560.5331, [khewkin@octa.net](mailto:khewkin@octa.net).

## The 405 Express Lanes Celebrate One Year of Keeping Orange County Moving

### Some fun facts about these lanes:

- The 405 Express Lanes cover 14 miles of I-405 between the SR-73 freeway in Costa Mesa and I-605 near the L.A. County line—one of the busiest stretches of freeway in the nation.
- They carry about twice as much carpool traffic as nearby freeways due to a policy of allowing 3+ person carpools to travel for free.
- Roughly one in four of the vehicles using the toll lanes are carpools.
- Drivers traveling northbound in the 405 Express Lanes can save 20 minutes more during weekday evening peak hours than they did in the carpool lanes that existed prior to the project's construction in 2018.
- Traveling the full 14 miles in the 405 Express Lanes takes about 15 minutes at all hours, allowing users to count on a more reliable commute.



## Free Wilderness... (from page 1)

areas that are otherwise not open to the public.

Upcoming hikes are March 16 at Wren's View Preserve and June 1 at Pacific Horizon Preserve.

See the full schedule at [preservingourlegacy.org](http://preservingourlegacy.org).

## 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.



## Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Mary Morales, HCA
- Evelyn Tran, HCA
- Todd Bates, 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@ocgov.com](mailto:rideshare@ocgov.com).



## Club Rideshare

Email: [rideshare@ocgov.com](mailto: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.  
Santa Ana, CA 92701







# Club Rideshare

April 2025 Newsletter



## Ride Free, Win Big on

# EARTH DAY

Earth Day is April 22. Here's how you can celebrate:

### Free Rides

Motor vehicles are behind 40% of the emissions that cause smog in California. To encourage people to try transit instead of driving alone, rides will be free all day on **Metrolink** trains, no ticket required.

You can also ride free on **OC Bus**, **Metro Bus/Rail**, **Riverside Transit Agency buses** and all **San Bernardino County** and **Ventura County** transit providers.

### Calculate Your Carbon Footprint

Visit **CoolCalifornia.org** to quickly calculate your personal carbon footprint and learn ways to reduce it.

### IE Earth Day and Contest – Rideshare & Win

If you live or work in the Inland Empire, you have a chance to win prizes—including an iPad mini, Nintendo Switch Lite, and gift cards—when you rideshare or telework in April.

To participate:

- Create an account or log in at **IECommuter.org**.
- Sign up for the promotion at **IECommuter.org/EarthDay**.

- Throughout April, log any day you rideshare or telework. Each day logged is an entry into the prize drawing.

(continued)

## Lunch and Learn About Your Biking and Walking Commute Options

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, bike 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.



## New Improvements to the I-5 Freeway

OCTA recently announced that improvements on the I-5 Freeway between Oso Parkway and La Paz Road are complete.

The changes include converting carpool lanes to continuous access, making it more convenient for carpoolers to get in and out of the lanes.

(continued)





## Ride Free, Win Big... (from page 1)

### Get Involved

Visit [earthday.org](http://earthday.org) to pledge an "earth action" such as ridesharing or swapping plastic water bottles for reusable. You can also find out about Earth Day events near you including beach clean-ups, family fairs, workshops and more.

## When the Unexpected Happens...

### Metrolink Now Offers Uber Vouchers During Service Disruptions

Metrolink recently announced that during service disruptions when they are unable to secure alternate transportation, you may be offered an Uber Voucher. It can be redeemed from your own Uber app account on your mobile device.

You may receive the Uber Voucher in a text, Tweet, Facebook post or through the Metrolink website chatting with the Digital Assistant.

Find out more at [metrolinktrains.com](http://metrolinktrains.com).

### Need to Get Home from Work Due to Emergency or Illness?

On a day that you carpooled, vanpooled, rode the bus or Metrolink, biked or walked to work, you can be reimbursed for the cost of a ride home in case of emergency or illness (up to twice in a fiscal year, July 1 - June 30).

The **County's Guaranteed Ride Home program** allows you to rideshare to work without worrying about being unable to get home if you need to.

## On Your Mark, Get Set for Bike Month

Discover the joys of two-wheeled commuting during Bike Month in May. Some highlights:

- Bike Week is May 12-16.
- Bike to Work Day is Thursday, May 22, when commuters are encouraged to bike to the office or to their nearby transit stop and bring their bike on board.
- Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) will hold a bike rally

and ride on May 22, 7 to 9 a.m. at the Orange Metrolink Station. Get pumped up about Bike Month, and then enjoy a group ride to the OCTA Administrative Headquarters in Orange.

Look for event details and updates at [octa.net/bikemonth](http://octa.net/bikemonth) as well as in next month's issue of Club Rideshare.



## New Improvements... (from page 1)

Minor work remains on the rest of the project, so stay up to date by visiting [octa.net/i5South](http://octa.net/i5South).

## A Tax Season Reminder:

If you vanpool or ride the bus/Metrolink to work and pay fares through payroll deduction, this is a reminder that for the 2025 tax season, there's a slight bump in your allowable deduction. The 2024 maximum of \$315 for 2025 is \$325 per month.

If you aren't currently paying fares using pre-tax dollars via payroll deduction, you could be missing out on tax savings. Contact the Rideshare Office for more information, or sign up using the **Voluntary Payroll Deduction Authorization Form**.



## Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Brian Drinkward, Superior Court
- Ruth Franco, SSA
- Noelle Rojas, OCSD



## 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@ocgov.com](mailto:rideshare@ocgov.com).



## Club Rideshare

Email: [rideshare@ocgov.com](mailto: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.  
Santa Ana, CA 92701







# Club Rideshare

May 2025 Newsletter



## Get in Gear for Bike Month

May is National Bike Month—your chance to save money, get fit and do your share for clean air. Bike to work, or just as far as your nearby transit stop!

Here's what's happening...

### Throughout Southern California

Cyclists can ride Metrolink for free Bike Day, Thursday, May 15, when they bring their bike on board.

Bikes are allowed on all trains, and Metrolink also features special **Bike Cars** designed to accommodate more bikes.

### In Orange County

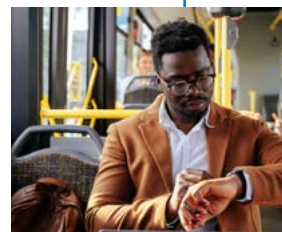
**Win Prizes:** Make the **pledge to bike one or more times in May**, and you could win an e-bike package that includes:

- An Avant Agile Commuter E-Bike, valued at \$1,499
- Helmets for an adult and a child
- Bike lock
- Baby seat



## 5 Ways to Save Time if You Ride Transit

- 1. Use the Transit App.** Most Southern California transit providers use the **Transit app** to show actual bus arrival times based on real-time data. You can spend less time waiting and wondering when your bus will arrive.
- 2. Check the Metrolink Real Time Train Tracker.** An official time-tracking app for Metrolink maybe in the works—in the meantime, you can use the real-time train tracker online at **metrolinktrains.com**. Just enter your station to see when your train will arrive. It also lists any advisories that could impact your ride.
- 3. Buy fares through the rideshare office.** Instead of dealing with ticket machines, you can simply order your bus pass or Metrolink tickets through the Rideshare Office. Not only will you save time, but you'll also qualify for a lower fare—plus when you use payroll deduction, you'll lower your overall taxable income as well.
- 4. Look for express bus routes.** OC Bus has four **Rapid Bus lines** that run along the same route as local buses but make fewer



(continued)

(continued)







## Get in Gear... (from page 1)

**Bike Rally:** Join Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) for a bike rally May 22, 7:30 – 9 a.m. at the Orange Metrolink Station. Attendees will receive a free t-shirt (while supplies last) and snacks. Plus, you'll be entered to win an e-bike package available only to rally participants.

Special guest speakers will get the crowd pumped about Bike Month. Then join other cyclists on a 3-mile ride to OCTA Headquarters in Orange.

More Info: Visit [octa.net/bikemonth](https://octa.net/bikemonth).

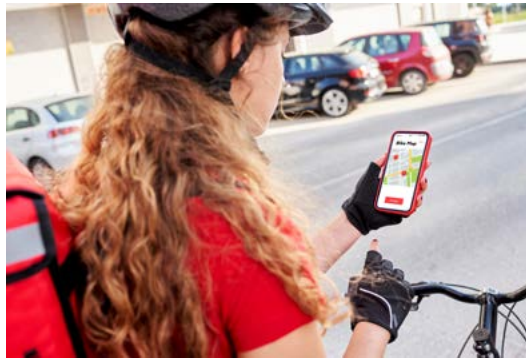
## Getting Ready to Bike to Work

If you're new to bike commuting, you might want to prepare before heading out on the road.

**Gear up.** If your bike has been in the garage for a while, take it to your local bike shop for a tune-up.

**Select a route.** The route you bike isn't always the same as what you'd drive. Resources like the [Map My Ride](#) app can suggest a route with bike paths and fewer hills. OCTA recently updated its [bikeways map](#).

**Consider a "bike buddy."** Is there anyone at work who lives nearby that might want to ride to work with you? Knowing that someone is counting on you to ride with them can strengthen your resolve. Two bikes on the road are also more visible—and therefore safer—than one.



### Speaking of safety.

Buy a Snell/ANSI-approved helmet – then wear it. Check your bike for reflectors (required in California for riding in the darkness) and other safety features. Wear brightly colored clothing, especially if you bicycle at dawn or dusk.

Riding an e-bike? OCTA has plenty of useful information, including rules of the road, safety tips and upcoming e-bike classes, at [octa.net](https://octa.net).



## 5 Ways to Save Time... (from page 1)



stops, so take less time. If you live in Riverside, the **CommuterLink Express** with routes into Orange County may be a time-saving option for you.

### 5. Get home fast in an emergency.

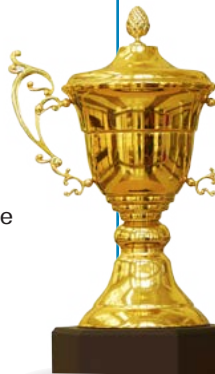
Don't worry about riding the bus home if you need to get home due to illness or emergency on a day you took transit to the office. You can instead take a train, Uber/Lyft or taxi if that will get you there faster. The **County's guaranteed ride home program** will reimburse you for the cost (up to two times per fiscal year).



## Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- James Callejas, OCPW
- Damien Galiana, OCSD
- Jennifer Stanley, Superior Court



## 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

Email: [rideshare@ceo.oc.gov](mailto: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

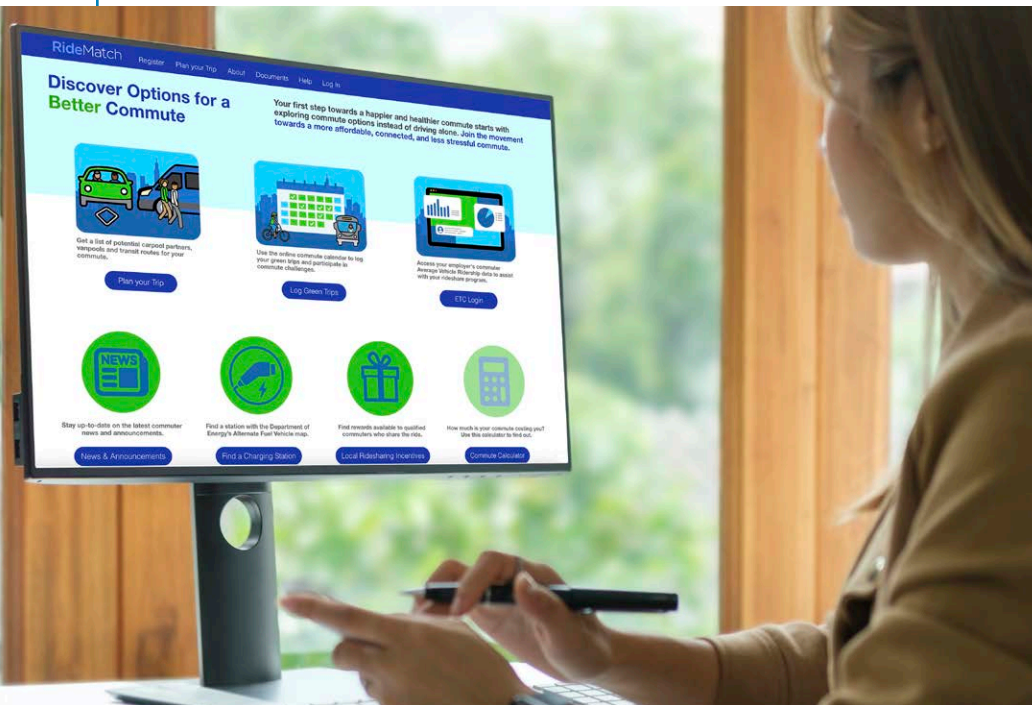






# Club Rideshare

June 2025 Newsletter



## Lunch and Learn About Metrolink and Special Summer Promotions

The next Lunch and Learn is June 11, 12 to 1 p.m. Tune in to learn how Metrolink can save you time on the commute, as well as discover money-saving incentives and summer promotions.

Lunch and Learn virtual workshops are offered every other month by the Rideshare Office.

You can now pre-register to attend the Lunch and Learn by [clicking this link](#).

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



## Ridematch.info Gets a New Look and Interface

The next time you log into your [ridematch.info](#) account, you may notice it has a new look.

The regional rideshare database recently underwent an update, giving it a more user-friendly design. Whether you've moved, changed your schedule, or simply want to try a new way to get to work, ridematch.info makes it easy to find the help you need.

It allows you to:

- Generate a list of potential carpool or bicycling partners—people who live and work near you and work a similar schedule.
- Find available seats on a vanpool.
- Get instant transit routing, including Metrolink and commuter express bus options.
- Locate EV charging station locations.
- Calculate how much you're spending on the commute—and how much you are saving by ridesharing or teleworking.

You can also learn about special incentives and promotions available to commuters.

## A Few Fiscal Year, New Rides Home

County of Orange and Superior Court employees can be reimbursed for a ride if they need to get home due to an emergency on a day they got to work by ridesharing—up to two rides per fiscal year. Emergency ride options include taxi, Uber/Lyft and transit.

Since a new fiscal begins on July 1, if you've claimed the

[\(continued\)](#)





## San Clemente Rail Stabilization Update

Passenger rail service through San Clemente is expected to reopen early this month.

It has been suspended since April 28 to allow crews to reinforce sections of track at immediate risk from landslides and coastal erosion.

The section under repair 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.

For updates, visit [metrolinktrains.com/service-updates](http://metrolinktrains.com/service-updates), [pacificsurfliner.com/alerts](http://pacificsurfliner.com/alerts) or [octa.net](http://octa.net).

## Club Rideshare

...New Rides Home (from page 1)

maximum number of rides home this fiscal year, your total number of rides will then reset to zero.

To find out more about the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program or to claim a reimbursement, [click here](#).

### Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Christopher Goffredo, HCA
- Jennifer Stanley, Superior Court
- James Carter, SSA



### New Contact Info for the Rideshare Office

In coordination with the change of the County website address, you can now find rideshare services information at [hrs.oc.gov/rideshare](http://hrs.oc.gov/rideshare).

The new email address for the Rideshare Office is [rideshare@ceo.oc.gov](mailto:rideshare@ceo.oc.gov).



### 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).



## School's Out, But Free or Discounted Rides Are Still In

School is out but youth aged 6 to 18 can still ride free on OC Bus with the [Youth Ride Free Pass](#). The passes are available from your child's participating Orange County school (parental signature is required). Or [click here](#) to request one online.

**Metrolink's Student Adventure Pass**—which allows riders 18 and younger to board free—will continue through June 30. After that, students using the pass will receive a 50% discount on fares.



## When Will My Train Get Here?



Metrolink launched a new alerts tool last month that makes it easier for riders to track real-time train arrivals and service interruptions. You'll be able to better time when you need to get to the station or make alternate travel plans if your usual train isn't available.

**Sign up to receive notifications via text or email** that are specific to the route you usually ride.

## Club Rideshare



Email: [rideshare@ceo.oc.gov](mailto: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







# 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](http://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?

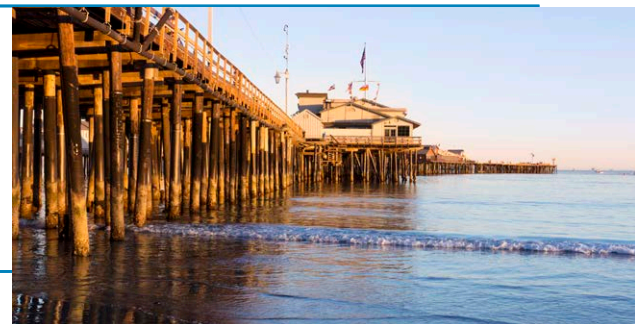
If your home address, work/home phone number or email has changed, please let the Rideshare Office know by sending an email to [rideshare@ceo.oc.gov](mailto:rideshare@ceo.oc.gov).



## Club Rideshare

Email: [rideshare@ceo.oc.gov](mailto: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







# 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.

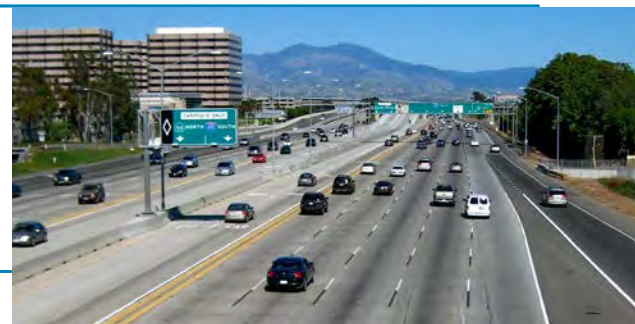
You can catch it at locations in Anaheim, Huntington Beach, Laguna Hills, Fullerton and Santa Ana.



## Club Rideshare

Email: [rideshare@ceo.oc.gov](mailto: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







# Club Rideshare

September 2025 Newsletter



## Have You Turned in Your Transportation Survey?

Important Reminder: The annual transportation survey is due Friday, Sept 5.

The survey is mandatory and collects information on how you commuted the week of Aug. 4-8.

The Rideshare Office emailed surveys to all County of Orange and Superior Court employees on Aug. 8. Please take a few minutes to complete it by the deadline.

As a thank you for your participation, you'll be entered into a drawing to win one of 10 \$100 Amazon gift cards.

Don't have the survey? You can also [download it here](#).

## We Need your Input!

The County is required to conduct this survey annually to meet Southern California Clean Air mandates.

The survey measures on average how many employees are working on a particular day vs. how many vehicles are coming in to the worksite. Do you carpool? Ride the bus or train? Telework? Work a compressed or hybrid schedule? By choosing an alternative to driving alone, you help contribute to clean air efforts, and the survey data indicates how much it adds up.

The data collected is also used to evaluate how the County is doing in providing commute services to employees and helps us identify areas where we can improve.

(continued)

## Save the Date for the Next Lunch and Learn

The next Lunch and Learn is October 14, 12 to 1 p.m. Tune in to learn more about the money-saving incentives the County offers to employees—from transit discounts to EV rebates to tax savings and more. Rideshare staff will also be available after the presentation to answer questions about incentives or commute options.

Lunch and Learn virtual workshops are offered every other month by the Rideshare Office.

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.

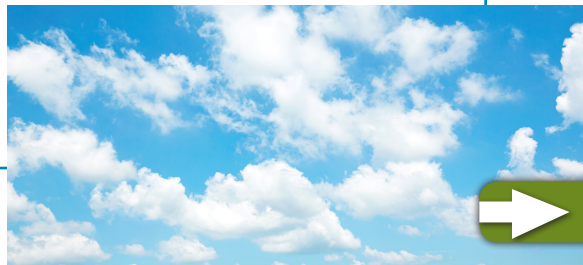
If you have questions, or to sign up for an email reminder, contact the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600.

## Ride Free on California Clean Air Day

California Clean Air Day is Oct. 1. Metrolink will offer free rides to encourage Southern Californians to leave their vehicles at home and opt for a more sustainable alternative.

Rides will also be free on OC Bus, Metro Bus and Rail and all San Bernardino County transit agencies for the day.

Visit [cleanairday.org](https://cleanairday.org) to find out more and take the Clean Air Pledge.

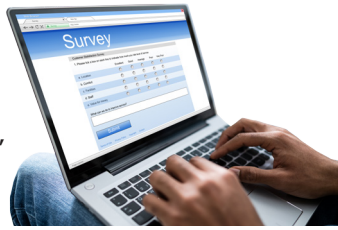




## Have You Turned in Your Transportation Survey... (from page 1)

### Get Help with Completing the Survey

The Rideshare Office offers this **short, helpful video on how to complete the transportation survey**. It answers the most often asked questions, including how to indicate that you work a flex schedule, work a hybrid schedule or vary the way you commute throughout the week.



### For More Information...

Contact OC Rideshare at 714.834.7600 or [rideshare@ceo.oc.gov](mailto:rideshare@ceo.oc.gov).

## Check "Yes" to a RideGuide

When you fill out the annual transportation survey, you have the option to receive a free RideGuide commute planner—which you can get by checking "yes" to the last question in the survey.

A few reasons to request a RideGuide:

- It gives you commute options based on where you live, work and your work schedule—everything from bus/rail routing to carpools to where to find a convenient Park & Ride.
- Even if you already have a rideshare arrangement, it might come in handy if you find yourself in need of a way to get to work.

- Transit options change all the time. The RideGuide will give you the most up-to-date routes and scheduling.

## Every Ride Counts—Especially Yours

Rideshare Week is Oct. 6-10, celebrating alternatives to driving alone for less traffic and cleaner air.

Make the pledge to carpool, vanpool, ride transit, bike or walk to work at least once during the week for a chance to win a "commuter kit" from Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA). It includes:

- A set of AirPods Pro 2
- Battery charger
- Kindle
- YETI Rambler

For more information and to make the pledge, visit [octa.net/rideshareweek](https://octa.net/rideshareweek).



## OC Bus Route 1 Extends Summer Schedule

One of OCTA's busiest routes—OC Bus Route 1—has been operating on a special summer schedule that includes extended service on weekends and minor timing refinements. OCTA announced that Route 1 buses will continue to run on this schedule through November.

Route 1 travels via Pacific Coast Highway between Long Beach and San Clemente.

OCTA last month also introduced other schedule changes on many of its routes, including improved connections to Metrolink.

See the changes to routing at [octa.net](https://octa.net).



## 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:

- Iman Al Hawasli, HCA
- Teresa Wiseman, DA
- Rosa Ramirez, SSA

## 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

Email: [rideshare@ceo.oc.gov](mailto: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







# Club Rideshare

October 2025 Newsletter



## Rideshare & Win During Rideshare Week!

Rideshare Week is Oct. 6-10. Join the thousands of Southern Californians who'll carpool, vanpool, ride transit, bike or walk to work instead of driving alone. When you do, you'll have a chance to win great prizes—plus contribute to cleaner air and less traffic.

Here's what's happening:



### Orange County

Orange County commuters can enter to win a Commuter Essentials Kit that includes a set of AirPods Pro 2, battery charger, YETI Rambler, Kindle and a tote. Just pledge to rideshare at least one day during Rideshare Week to qualify.

Find out more: [octa.net/rideshareweek](https://octa.net/rideshareweek).

### Riverside/San Bernardino Counties

If you live in the Inland Empire, you could win any of dozens of prizes including Apple AirPods 4, an Apple Watch, a getaway at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa and more.



(continued)

## Ride Free on California Clean Air Day

MetroLink will offer free rides across its entire system on Oct. 1 in celebration of California Clean Air Day. No ticket is needed—just hop on board any MetroLink train and ride for free all day long.

Rides will also be free on OC Bus, Metro Bus and Rail, and on all San Bernardino County and Ventura County transit agencies for the day.

Visit [cleanairday.org](https://cleanairday.org) for more information and to take the Clean Air Pledge.



## Are You Missing Out on Any Rideshare Benefits?

The next Lunch and Learn is Oct. 1, 12 to 1 p.m. Tune in to learn more about the money-saving incentives the County offers to employees—from transit discounts to EV rebates to tax savings and more.

Make sure you aren't missing out on any benefits you may qualify for if you rideshare, telework or buy or lease an EV. You may also find out about commute options that will save you money or get you to work even faster.

Rideshare staff will be available after the presentation to answer questions.

(continued)



## Rideshare & Win During... (from page 1)

Throughout the month of October, simply log your commute at [IECommuter.org](http://IECommuter.org) and register for the **Rideshare Week promotion**. Each day you rideshare or telework is an entry into the prize drawing.

## Important EV Updates

### Carpool Lane Access Ends With 60-Day Grace Period

Electric vehicle drivers as of Sept. 30 no longer have access to carpool lanes if driving alone, per a new federal law. However, California is allowing a 60-day grace period as of Oct. 1—meaning if you're caught driving solo in carpool lanes during that time with an EV decal, you won't be cited.



### Thinking of Buying or Leasing an EV?

Even if the carpool lane incentive has ended, driving an EV offers plenty of other advantages—including saving thousands of dollars each year in fuel costs.

Find out more about EVs during **National Drive Electric Month**, which continues through Oct. 12.

It features dozens of EV events—from virtual workshops to EV showcases and even a chance to test drive vehicles.

The County also offers a **one-time \$100 bonus** when you lease or buy a qualifying EV.

## Look for Your RideGuide if You Checked "Yes" on the Survey

When you filled out the annual transportation survey, you had the option to receive a free RideGuide commute planner. If you checked "yes," here's some good news: You should receive your RideGuide via email soon.

A RideGuide gives you commute options based on where you live, work and your work schedule. It includes everything from bus/rail routing to vanpool seats available to where to find a convenient Park & Ride.

Even if you currently have a rideshare arrangement, it may come in handy if your carpool partner drops out or your usual bus route changes.

Didn't request a RideGuide on the survey but would like one now? Contact OC Rideshare at 714.834.7600 or [rideshare@ceo.oc.gov](mailto:rideshare@ceo.oc.gov).

## Are You Missing... (continued from page 1)

Lunch and Learn virtual workshops are offered every other month by the Rideshare Office. 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.

## OCTA Hosts Therapy and Service Animal Training

On Oct. 4, therapy and service animals and their handlers can learn how to safely and comfortably navigate the transit system. Orange County Transportation Authority will host a day where participants can board designated buses and ride together—free of charge.

It starts at the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center and goes to various sites throughout Orange County.

For more information and to register, visit [octa.net](http://octa.net).



## Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Jennifer Chau, SSA
- Eric Monreal, OCSD
- Lorena Yonamine, SSA

## 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

Email: [rideshare@ceo.oc.gov](mailto: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







# Club Rideshare

November 2025 Newsletter



## All Aboard the Metrolink Holiday Express!

Metrolink's **Holiday Express Train** will soon be back to get the holiday season rolling. Specially decorated trains give riders a fun-filled trip with carolers, holiday characters, interactive activities, crafts and Santa and Mrs. Claus themselves. Tickets go on sale Nov. 3 and typically sell out quickly.

The Holiday Express will run in Irvine on Dec. 13 and 14.

Other events include Dec. 6 at Union Station, Dec. 7 at San Bernardino Depot Station, Dec. 20 at Riverside-Downtown Station and Dec. 21 at Simi Valley Station.

Holiday Express trains will also collect donations of new, unwrapped toys and socks for those in need.

## Share Your Transportation Thoughts for a Chance to Win \$50

What changes are needed to make Orange County roads better? How can your bike ride be improved? Are the bikeways meeting your needs?

(continued)

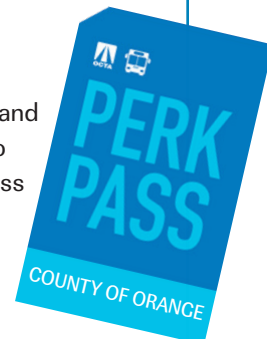


## Keep an Eye Out for Your 2026 Perk Pass

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.



## Metrolink Says "Thanks" with a \$10 Fare

On Thanksgiving Day, you can ride Metrolink all day for a discount rate of just \$10. Note: Trains will run on their Sunday schedule for the holiday.

## OC Bus Service Changes Include Better Metrolink Connections

OC Bus last month made schedule adjustments on bus routes to improve service and better meet riders' needs. This includes improving frequency on several routes and ending Routes 29 and 129 at the Metrolink Station, among other changes.

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).





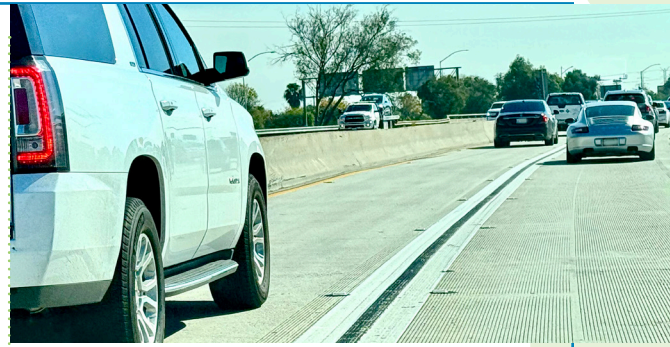
## Share Your Transportation Thoughts... (from page 1)

What's working—and what isn't? Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) wants to know.

Every four years, OCTA updates its Long-Range Transportation Plan to outline priorities for transportation improvements in Orange County over the next 20-plus years.

"We want to hear directly from those who use our roads, buses, trains and bikeways every day to help shape a vision that serves our entire county," says OCTA Chair Doug Chaffee.

To weigh in, [take an online survey](#) by Nov. 9. As a thanks for your input, you'll be automatically entered to win one of four \$50 gift cards.



## Are You No Longer Able to Use the Carpool Lane?

Electric vehicle drivers can no longer legally drive alone in carpool lanes, per federal law. The change went into effect Oct. 1. If you are caught driving solo in these lanes—even with a decal—you can be cited.

That's the bad news. The good news: All carpool lanes in Orange County require only two occupants per vehicle. If you'd like to keep using these time-saving lanes, the Rideshare Office can help you find a carpool partner—someone who lives and works near you and has a similar schedule. You can also get an instant list of potential carpool partners at [ridematch.info](#) or by calling 511.

## Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Patricia Ruvalcaba, SSA
- Babar Karim, HCA – EV
- Wei Zhu, Public Works



## 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).



## There's an App for That

"When is my bus or train going to get here?" Instead of waiting and wondering, you can download apps or sign up for notifications to easily get the most up-to-date arrival times.

**On OC Bus:** OC Bus uses the Transit app to allow riders to get real-time bus arrival data. It automatically shows all bus stops and transit stations near your location, or you can input specific stop information. Download it at [transitapp.com](#).

You can also [sign up to receive text alerts](#) from OCTA. Simply send a text to 91923. Type key word JOIN, then a space, then which route you want. You can sign up for up to five routes per text message.

On Metrolink: Metrolink offers a tool that makes it easier for riders to track real-time train arrivals and service interruptions. You'll be able to better time when you need to get to the station or make alternate travel plans if your usual train isn't available.

[Sign up to receive notifications via text or email](#) that are specific to the route you usually ride.



## Club Rideshare

Email: [rideshare@ceo.oc.gov](mailto: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







# 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

Email: [rideshare@ceo.oc.gov](mailto: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

