

OC Commuter

News for a better commute from the OC Rideshare Office



How to Stop Wasting Time (and Money) on the Commute?

Motorists in Southern California waste more time sitting in traffic delays than anywhere else in the nation. If you'd like to spend less time commuting—or at least make more of your time on the road—here are some tips:

- 1. Double up.** Use any of Orange County's many (free) carpool lanes on the 405, 91 and 55 freeways. Just two people in the vehicle are required. The Rideshare Office can help you see if there's a coworker who lives near you who'd like to share the ride if you don't already have a carpool partner.



- 2. Ride in toll lanes for free.** Express Lanes on the 91 and 405 freeways allow motorists to travel in traffic congestion-free lanes for a toll. Is paying a daily toll on the commute beyond your budget? Good news: Carpools can use the lanes free or at a discount.

- On the **405 Express Lanes**, three-plus person carpools ride free. Vehicles with two or more riders are free as well during non-peak hours.

EXPRESS LANES	EXPRESS LANES
HOV2+ NO TOLL	FASTRAK ONLY
FASTRAK REQUIRED	To BROOKHURST \$0.55
	To SR-73 \$1.55
	To BRISTOL ST \$1.45



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.

Are You Paying Too Much Income Tax?

A tax season reminder from the Rideshare Office: If you vanpool or ride the bus/Metrolink to work and you aren't signed up for the Commuter Choice program, you could be paying more income tax than you need to.

Commuter Choice allows you to purchase your fares through a convenient monthly payroll deduction using pre-tax dollars. By doing so, you can reduce your taxable income—up to the IRS limit of \$325 each month.

For details, contact the Rideshare Office, or fill out and submit the **Voluntary Payroll Deduction Authorization form**.



(Continued on page 2)

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How to Stop Wasting Time... *(Continued from page 1)*

- On the **91 Express Lanes**, vehicles with three or more people travel toll-free except eastbound on weekdays from 4 to 6 p.m., when they receive a 50% discount.

All vehicles using Express Lanes must have a FasTrak transponder with a valid account.



- 3. Make fewer stops.** Switch to an express bus vs. local. **OC Bus offers three rapid routes** that make a third of the stops of local lines, getting you to your destination faster.

Routes include:

- 529 Fullerton – Huntington Beach
- 543 Fullerton Transportation Center – Costa Mesa
- 553 Anaheim – Costa Mesa
- 560 Santa Ana – Long Beach

- 4. Avoid traffic tie-ups by taking the train.** Especially if you travel longer distances, riding Metrolink can zip you past traffic in comfort. Visit metrolinktrains.com to see if there's a train station near your home or worksite.



If the nearest station isn't close to the office, you may be able to **grab a shuttle, bus or microtransit ride for the last leg of the journey.**

New to riding transit? You may qualify for **County fare subsidies** of 75% for the first month, 50% for the second and 25% for the third.



- 5. Try a "super carpool."** Vanpooling might save you time on the commute and can also let you make better use of your time on the road. A vanpool is a sort of "super carpool" in which a

group of people commute together on a regular basis in a leased van, splitting expenses.

You may be able to shave time off the ride by using carpool lanes or Express Lanes. Even if you can't, you'll be able to spend your commute time reading, relaxing or catching up on work instead of gripping the steering wheel.

Visit ridematch.info to see if there's a vanpool that might work for your commute.



- 6. Workout on the way to work.** Bike or walk to the office or a nearby transit station, and combine fitness with the commute. Most transit riders clock 30 minutes of walking a day. You'll not only save on gas and wear and tear on your car, but you might even be able to skip the gym membership!

"OC Buses Are Bussin'"

Have a chuckle while you hear about all that OC Bus has to offer in this Gen-Z inspired video that recently went viral...

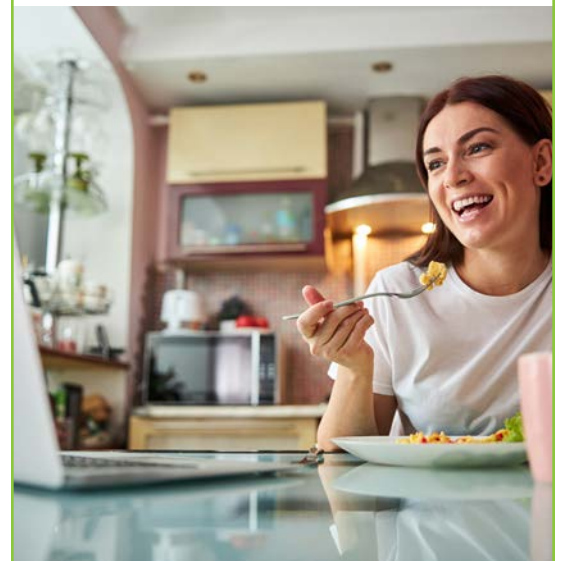


Save the Date for the Next Lunch and Learn

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.

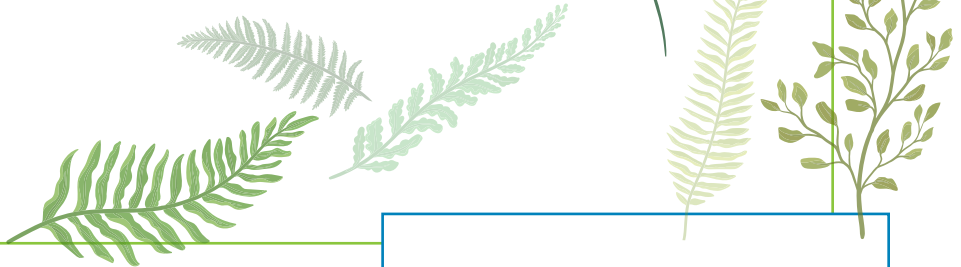


Ride Free on Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22. In celebration, rides will be free all day on **Metrolink**, **Metro Bus** and **Rail**, **OC Bus**, as well as all **San Bernardino County** and **Ventura County** transit providers.

You can also visit CoolCalifornia.org to quickly calculate your personal carbon footprint and learn ways to reduce it.

Go to earthday.org to find out about virtual and in-person Earth Day events.



What You Can Do to Stop Smog...

Choosing an alternative to driving alone is a good way to do your share for clean air. Nearly 40% of California's total emissions come from vehicles.

Did You Know...?

Pounds of CO2 Per Mile Spewed into the Air Per Mile (Per Person)



DRIVING ALONE

.96/mile

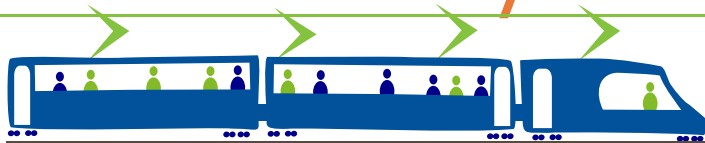


VANPOOLING

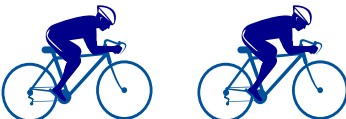
.22/mile

RIDING TRANSIT

.45/mile



BIKING/WALKING



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IE Commuter Earth Day Contest—Pledge to Rideshare, Win Prizes

IE Commuter is celebrating Earth Day throughout April. Commuters who make the Earth Day pledge and then log their rideshare and/or telework days can win prizes including an Apple Watch, Dana Wharf Whale Watching Tickets, gift cards and more.

Each trip logged is an entry to win. The more you rideshare or telework, the better your chances to win.

The contest is open to commuters who live in Riverside or San Bernardino counties.

Visit IECommuter.org/EarthDay to take the pledge and for more information including a full list of prizes.

3 Ways to Gear Up for Bike Month

May is Bike Month, and Southern California transportation agencies are gearing up to offer special events for bicyclists all month long.

Here, we offer some tips to get ready to participate in the big event:



1. Tune it up.

If it's been a while since you've rolled out your bike, consider taking it for a tune-up to make sure it's road ready.

2. Be safe.

Visit OCTA online for [tips on bike safety](#). If you're thinking of using an electric bicycle for the commute,

[OCTA's E-Bike Guide](#) can help you navigate the different resources available, as well as the rules of the road.

3. Find a route.

You can use the recently updated [OC Bikeways map](#) or an app such as [MapMyRide](#), which identifies routes with bike lanes or fewer hills.

You may want to bike all the way to the worksite—or just as far as your nearby transit stop or station. Metrolink allows you to bring your bike onboard. OC Bus (and most transit agencies) have front-end bike racks where you can stow your bike before you board.

Bike Month Events

- Bike Week is May 12-16.
- Bike to Work Day is Thursday, May 15.
- OCTA traditionally holds a bike rally and ride prior to Bike Month – look for details at [octa.net](#).
- You can find details on Bike Month events and promotions at [metrolinktrains.com](#).

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Taking You Out to the Ballgame

Get to the stadium to cheer on your favorite baseball team without dealing with the hassle and expense of driving and parking.



The Angels Express Train

Metrolink's Angels Express will be available for select home games with trains operating from Oceanside, L.A. Union Station and Riverside-Downtown to Anaheim, just steps from the stadium. Round-trip fares are only \$10, and kids 17 and under ride free.



The Dodger Stadium Express

Ride Metrolink to L.A. Union Station, then catch the free [Dodger Stadium Express](#) bus to the ballpark for every home game.

Construction to Begin on the 91 Freeway

OCTA and Caltrans will break ground soon on a project to improve 5.6 miles of SR-91 through Anaheim, Fullerton, Orange, Yorba Linda and Placentia.

The project will improve mobility throughout the corridor, reduce weaving and merging between ramps and improve on- and off-ramps, sidewalks and bike lanes.

If you travel this section of the 91, you can sign up for construction and email alerts at [octa.net](#).



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Santa Ana, CA 92701



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Catch Free Trolleys to OC's Summer Destinations

Skip the drive and hop on free summer trolleys that take you to destinations around Orange County:

- **The San Clemente Trolley** operates daily until Sept. 30. The system is made up of three routes between Camino Estrella to Cristianitos Road that take riders to beaches, shopping and other attractions.
- **The Laguna Niguel Trolley** will take riders "from the hill to the sea" all summer long, and at Stop #3 (in front of the Ritz-Carlton Resort), riders can connect with the free trolleys operated by Dana Point and Laguna Beach. The trolley runs Thursday through Sunday every 20 minutes until Sept 1.
- **The Dana Point Trolley** runs daily through Sept. 1 with two loops that give riders access to coastal cities and allow them to easily transfer between other city-run trolleys.
- **The Balboa Peninsula Trolley** runs Saturdays and Sundays through Sept. 2, providing service around the peninsula. It also offers service on Independence Day and Labor Day.
- **The San Juan Capistrano Trolley** operates weekends through Labor Day weekend with connections to Metrolink. Free shuttles are also available serving routes in **Laguna Beach**.

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.



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.

The new email address for the Rideshare Office is rideshare@ceo.oc.gov.



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Now It's Easier to Find Your Best Commute Options

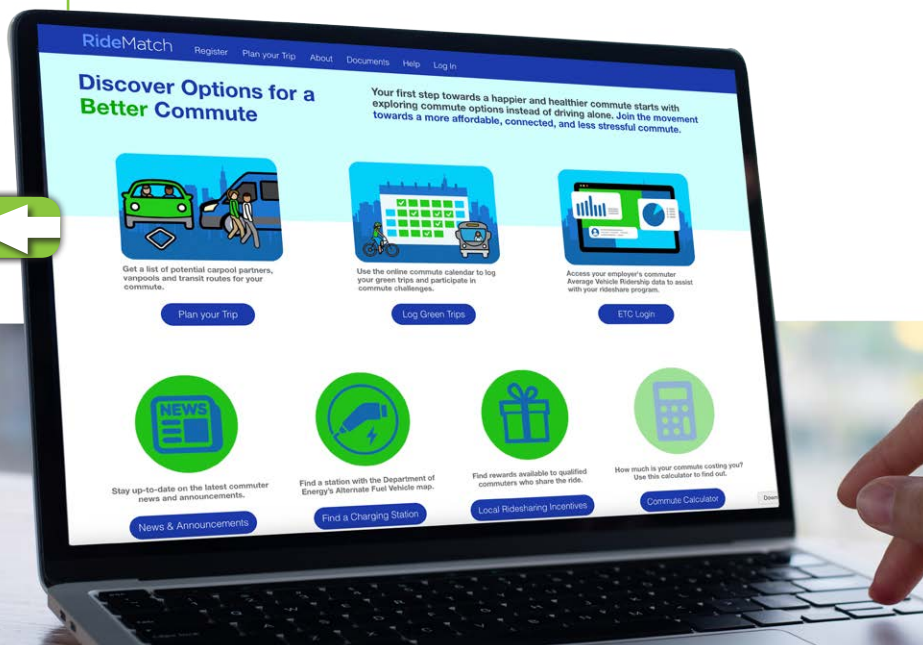
Introducing...the new and improved ridematch.info!

The regional rideshare database recently underwent a bit of a facelift, so now you can easily find your best alternatives to driving alone.

A user-friendly design makes it convenient to navigate the sites features, which include:

- Customized lists of potential carpool or bicycling partners—people who live and work near you and work a similar schedule
- Available seats on vanpools
- Instant transit routing, including Metrolink and commuter express bus options
- EV charging station locations
- A cost calculator that allows you to discover how much you're spending on the commute and ways to save money

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



LAX/Metro Transit Center

LAX/Metro Transit Center Expands Travel Options to LAX

Big news: The much-anticipated LAX/Metro Transit Center will open June 6.

Located at Aviation Boulevard and 96th Street, the LAX/Metro Transit Center offers riders dozens of convenient transit connections to Los Angeles World Airport (LAX)—one of the busiest airports in the nation.

The station serves two light rail lines—the C and K lines—as well as several Metro and partner agency bus lines, including the LAX FlyAway buses.

The station also features a bus plaza, bicycle parking restroom, customer service center and a passenger pick-up/drop-off area.

Ultimately, it will include a direct connection to the airport via the LAX Automated People Mover, expected to open early next year.

Find out more at Metro's The Source.

Live in the IE? Join a Carpool or Vanpool & Win

This summer, join a carpool or vanpool originating in San Bernardino or Riverside counties and you could win any of \$1,000 in monthly prizes including gift cards and transponders.

Simply log into or sign up for an account at IECommuter.org where you can generate a list of potential carpool partners and vanpools. Once you start ridesharing, log your trips to qualify for the prize drawing.





Profile: OC Bus Rapid Route 560— Santa Ana to Long Beach

You may be able to shave time off the commute while also skipping the stress of driving on an OC Bus Rapid route line. These buses make fewer stops, getting riders to their destinations faster.

Here, we take a look at Route 560, which has stops near several County buildings in Santa Ana, including main administrative and Superior Court buildings.

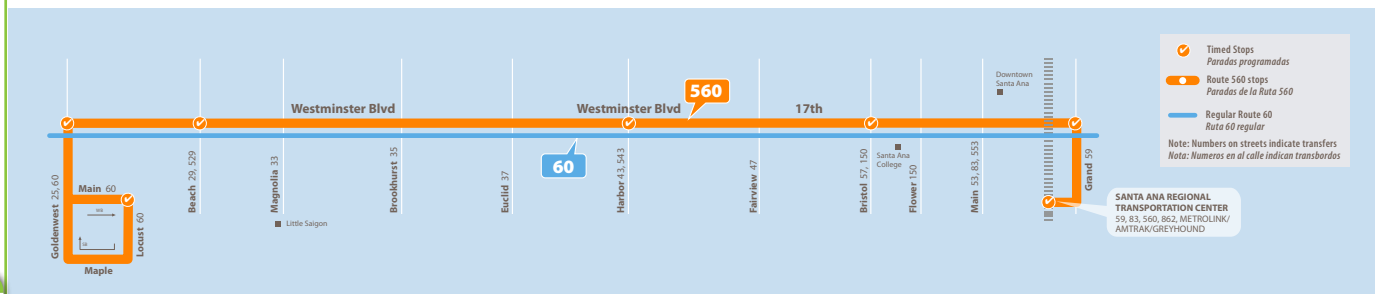
Where it travels: Rapid Bus Route 560 travels between Westminster and Santa Ana, serving 12 stops along Westminster Blvd/17th Street. In addition to County work centers, key destinations include Little Saigon, Santa Ana College and Downtown Santa Ana.

Frequency: It runs 6 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. daily, with buses every 24 minutes.

Connections: Route 560 serves the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center so you can transfer to/from Metrolink, Amtrak or Greyhound, as well as regional bus routes.

It also connects to Route 529 at Beach Blvd., Route 543 at Harbor Blvd., and Route 553 at Main Street—along with 17 regular OC Bus routes.

Find out more at octa.net/rapid.



Did You Know...?

You can be reimbursed for the cost of a ride if you need to get home due to illness or emergency on a day you carpooled, vanpooled, rode transit, biked or walked to work.

The County's **Guaranteed Ride Home** program allows up to two rides per fiscal year via taxi, Lyft/Uber or transit.

A Sneak Peek at the OC Streetcar

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) recently unveiled the first vehicle that will operate on the OC Streetcar system—a sneak peek at what will be the county's first modern, electric streetcar.

It's one of eight cars that will roll out on the line, each designed to carry up to 211 passengers at speeds up to 44 m.p.h. Streetcars will run every 10 to 15 minutes.

The OC Streetcar travels on a 4-mile route with 10 stations between the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center and Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove.

It serves some of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the county, Downtown Santa Ana and the Civic Center. Riders can connect with Metrolink rail service, OC Bus and other transit services.

The track for the streetcar project is finished along the entire route and, overall, the project is approximately 92% finished. Operations are slated to begin in spring 2026.

For more information about the project, visit ocstreetcar.com.





New Fares, Better Train Tracking on Metrolink

Metrolink announced that it is rolling out some changes designed to make riding the train more affordable and convenient.

Better Train Tracking

Metrolink launched a new alerts tool last month that makes it easier for riders to track real-time train arrivals and service interruptions. That means you can spend less time waiting at the station wondering if your train is running on time.

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

New Fare Structure

Metrolink is introducing a new pilot fare structure on July 1 which is slated to run through Dec. 31. Here's what's changing:

Reduced Fares: The price of monthly passes will decrease on average about 10%. They will remain the most cost-effective option for people who ride the train at least three times a week. (County employees can save even more when they pay for their pass using payroll deduction.)

New Passes: Metrolink is introducing 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 Flex pass options will be discontinued. The 5-Day Flex Pass will still be available.

In addition, the Student Adventure Pass program will sunset on June 30 and be replaced with a 50% discount. Other everyday discounts won't change, and veterans will qualify for a 10% discount.

Find out more at metrolinktrains.com.

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OC Green Expo

Find out more about electric vehicles—and maybe even test drive one—at the OC Green Expo and EV Test Drive, June 7, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in downtown Anaheim.

The free, family-friendly event features interactive activities, booths with EV information, raffles and prizes.

For details, visit anaheim.net/greenexpo.



Buy or Lease an EV, Get \$100

You may qualify for a \$100 bonus incentive when you lease or purchase a zero emission, EV or plug-in EV. To claim your bonus, turn in the [EV request form](#) within 90 days of purchase/lease.

This is a one time only incentive and includes hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

You may also be able to claim an additional \$40 incentive when you join Club Rideshare after tracking at least 20 days in which you commute by EV or ridesharing as well as teleworking.



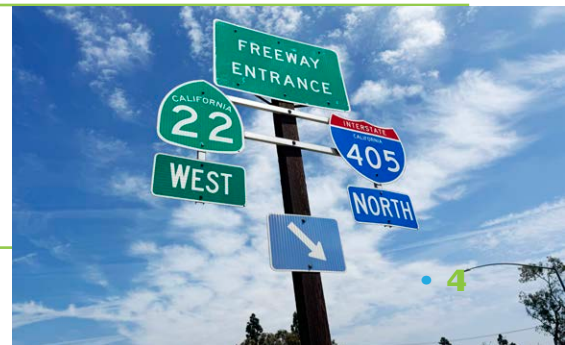
OC Commuter

Email: rideshare@ceo.oc.gov

Phone: 714.834.7600

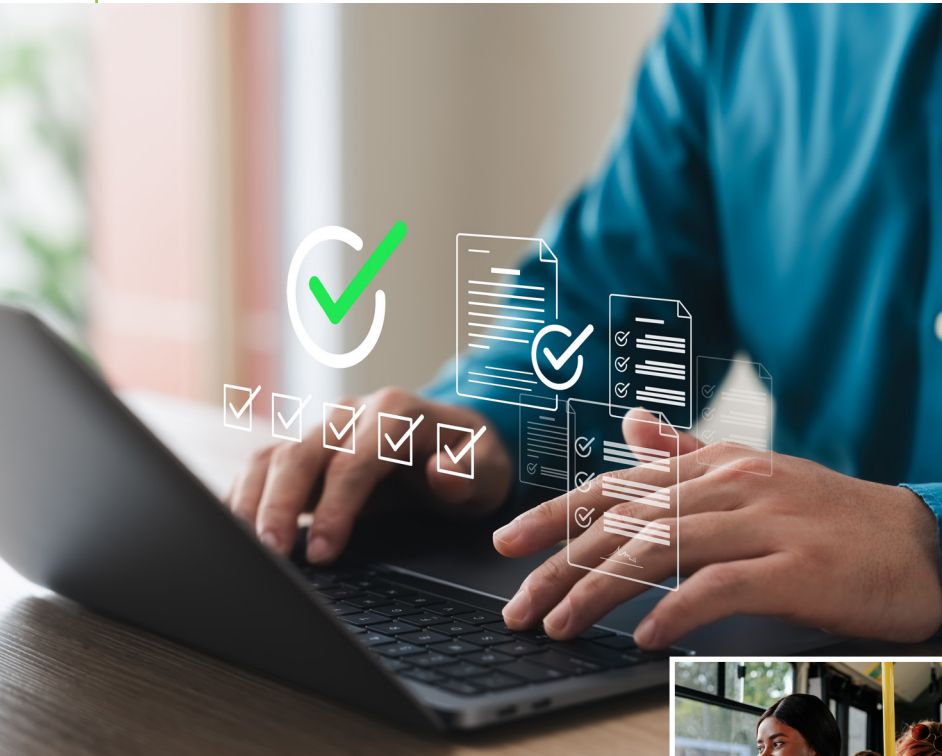
Web: <https://hrs.oc.gov/rideshare>

OC Rideshare Program Office
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Say "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're not ready to rideshare now, 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.
- You don't have to use it, but it'll be there if you need it.



Important Deadline: Transportation Survey Is Due Sept. 5

The Rideshare Office recently emailed the annual transportation survey to all County of Orange and Superior Court employees. This survey collects information on how you commuted the week of Aug. 4-8.

Please take a few minutes to complete it by the Friday, Sept. 5 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](#).

It Is Mandatory to Participate in the Survey

The County is required to conduct this survey annually to meet Southern California clean air mandates.



(Continued on page 2)



OC Commuter

Important Deadline: Transportation...

(Continued from page 1)

The survey measures on average how many employees are working on a particular day vs. how many vehicles are coming in to the worksite. 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.

Get Help with Completing the Survey

You need to submit a survey whether you commute daily, work a hybrid schedule or telework.

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.

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



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 to find out more and take the Clean Air Pledge.

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.

Rideshare & Win During Rideshare Week

Rideshare Week is Oct. 6-10, celebrating alternatives to driving alone to work. Here's what's happening:

Orange County

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) wants you to remember that "every ride counts, especially yours."

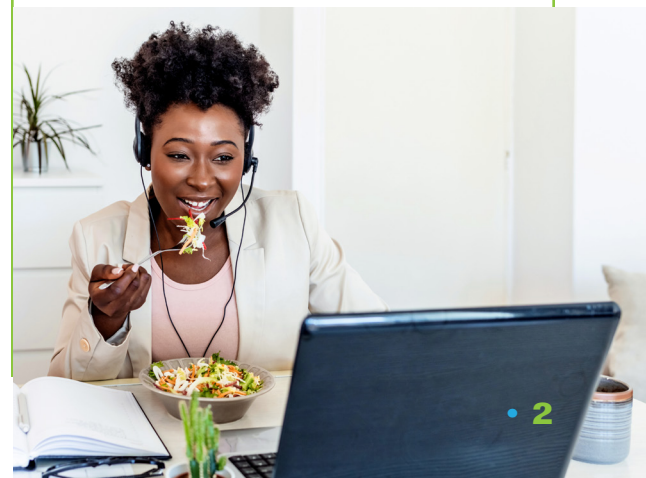
Make the pledge to rideshare at least one day during Rideshare Week. When you do, you'll be entered into a drawing for a "commuter kit" that contains a set of AirPods Pro 2, battery charger, Kindle and a YETI Rambler.

For details and to make the pledge, visit octa.net/rideshareweek.

Riverside/San Bernardino Counties

Live in the Inland Empire? Sign up and log your rideshare trips and telework days on IECommuter.org throughout October. You could win prizes including an iPad mini, Apple Watch, a getaway at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa and more.

Each trip or telework day logged is an entry into the raffle.



Own an EV or Thinking of Buying One?

National Drive Electric Month is Sept 12-Oct. 12—a great opportunity to learn more about hybrid and electric vehicles. Attend any of dozens of EV events throughout Southern California and online—from workshops to EV showcases and even a chance to test drive vehicles.

Find details and a frequently updated list of events at driveelectricmonth.org.

You may qualify for special incentives if you buy or lease a hybrid or EV:

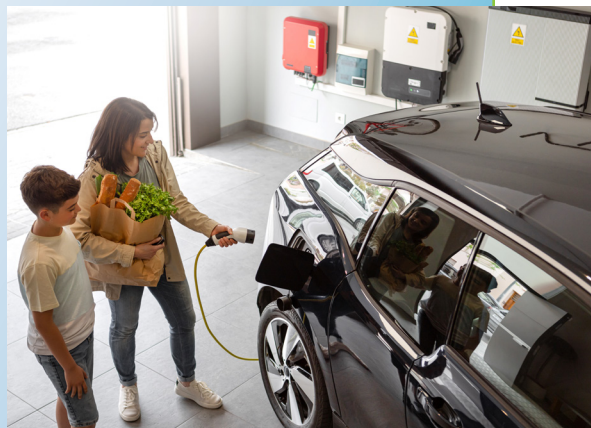
- Tax credits up to \$7,500 are available for eligible new electric vehicles and up to \$4,000 for eligible used electric vehicles. Find out more at energy.gov.

- The County offers a one-time \$100 bonus when you buy or lease a qualifying vehicle. Just complete and turn in [Sign-Up Application Form](#) within 90 days along with proof of purchase or lease.

Qualifying vehicles include both fully electric and plug-in hybrid cars and trucks.

- If you use your EV for the commute (and didn't qualify for the \$100 EV bonus), you may be able to join the County's Club Rideshare program. Participants get a \$40 sign-up incentive, \$15 annual incentive and are entered into monthly drawings for \$25.

- Although EVs are set to lose their solo access to carpool lanes as of Sept. 30, EV drivers may still get discounts on tolls in the [91 Express Lanes](#) and [405 Express Lanes](#). A transponder and valid account is required.



It's Back-to-School Time

This year, your family's back-to-school shopping budget won't need to include paying full price for bus and rail. Here's how youth and students can ride free or at a discount:

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 OCTA at 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.



OC Bus Service Changes

OC Bus last month instituted updates to its schedule to improve on-time performance. In total, service improvements will add roughly 31,000 vehicle service hours each year and provide better connections with Metrolink.

Among the changes:

- More frequent service on Routes 47, 64, 66, 90, and 123
 - Route 90 schedules adjusted to better connect with Metrolink at Tustin Station
 - Extending Routes 35 and 43 to Park Avenue and 19th Street.
 - Minor schedule adjustments on multiple routes to improve reliability
- For details, visit octa.net.



E-Bike Resources from OCTA

Recognizing the growing popularity of e-bikes, OCTA recently developed an extensive plan to make e-bike use safer for everyone. **The Bike Safety Action Plan** includes recommendations to improve education and expand resources.

In addition, OCTA offers e-bike resources online, including:

- Details on local and state e-bike ordinances
- Safety videos
- Rules of the road
- Bikeways map
- How to bring bikes on board OC Bus and Metrolink

Find it at octa.net/ebike.



Profile: OC Bus Route 1— Long Beach to San Clemente

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

Where it travels: Route 1 runs daily along Pacific Coast Highway between Long Beach and San Clemente. It could be a convenient option for employees who work at Newport Beach facilities as well as those who travel along Pacific Coast Highway for all or a portion of their commute.

Connections: It serves the Newport Transportation Center and Laguna Bus Station, and offers multiple connections to Metrolink stations (accepting a valid Metrolink ticket as fare payment).

Find out more: octa.net.



Join in the Great California

SHAKEOUT

You can join millions of people across California practicing earthquake safety on ShakeOut Day, Oct. 16 at 10:17 a.m.

Every year, Metrolink participates in ShakeOut Day, running a test drill during its normal service.

Get details at shakeout.org/California.



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The Survey Results Are In Here's How County Employees Are Getting to Work, Saving Money and Reducing Smog...

Remember that survey you filled out back in August that asked how you commute during the week? Well, the results are in. It turns out—even though driving alone is still the most common way people are getting into the office—it isn't the only way.

The survey measures "average vehicle ridership," or AVR, which is how many people on average are in each vehicle arriving at the worksite.

For the 2025 survey year, the County's AVR is 1.4 (up from 1.39 in 2024). "This marks the third year in a row that we increased AVR," says Thomas McCaughey, rideshare program consultant. "Fewer cars

**"Fewer cars
commuting
into the office
contributes to
less traffic and
cleaner air."**

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Free and Discount Holiday Rides



OC bus will offer free rides on New Year's Eve.

Rides are also free on Metro Bus and Rail on New Year's Eve as well as Christmas Eve.

On Christmas and New Year's Day, Metrolink will run on its weekend schedule and price—so it's only \$10 to travel all day, anywhere Metrolink goes.

How Ridesharing Helps You Keep Your New Year's Resolutions



Even with the best of intentions, it's easy to break your New Year's resolutions. Good news: If you rideshare, it might help you stick to them! Here, we take a look at some of the top resolutions people make—and ways choosing an alternative to driving alone can keep you on track.



Achieve your fitness goals. Walking or biking to work is a great way to incorporate exercise into your daily routine and burn extra calories during your commute. Surprisingly, taking public transit can also contribute to your health. Americans spend a median of nearly 20 minutes a day walking to and from their bus or train stops.

Save money. With the price of gas topping \$6 a gallon at the pumps, the money you save by driving less can really add up. You'll also spend less on auto wear and tear.

(Continued on page 2)



OC Commuter

The Survey Results Are In... *(Continued from page 1)*

Did You Know...?

This year, 1,131 employees requested RideGuides when completing the survey. RideGuides provide a personalized list of rideshare options, including potential carpool partners, transit routing and more.

Didn't ask for a RideGuide but want one now? Contact the Rideshare Office!

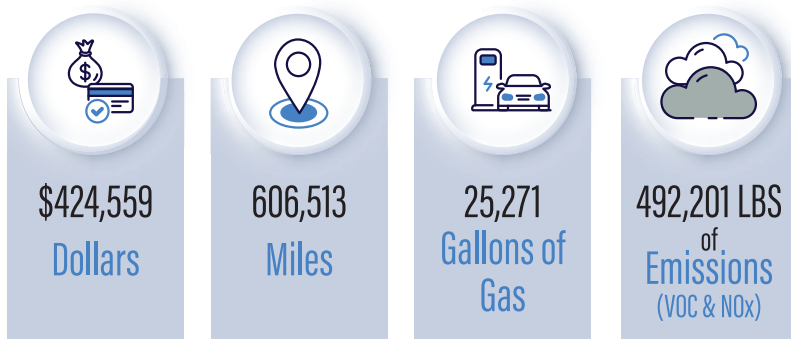
commuting into the office contributes to less traffic and cleaner air."

The most common alternative to driving alone to the office was not to drive into the office at all, with 23% of these employees reporting telework days.

Flex days—where employees work longer hours, fewer days—accounted for 16% of commute trips avoided.

Carpooling remained the most popular rideshare option for those commuting into the office.

By Choosing Alternatives to Driving Alone Daily, Employees This Year Saved:



Congratulations Transportation Survey Raffle Winners

The County of Orange is required to conduct a transportation survey each year. As a "thank you" for turning in the recent survey by Sept. 5, all participants were entered into a raffle for \$100 Amazon gift cards.

Winners are:

- Edgar Rodriguez, OC Public Works
- Amanda Munoz, Child Support Services
- Jennifer Medina, Superior Court
- Donna York, OC Community Resources
- David Atkins, Health Care Agency
- Xavier Ornelas, Sheriff-Coroner
- Christopher Wallace, CEO/HRS/OCIT
- Anh Tran, Assessor
- Tiffany Tam, Social Services Agency
- Brittanee Carranza, Health Care Agency



How Ridesharing Helps...

(Continued from page 1)

Carpooling or vanpooling may also qualify you to ride for free in express lanes instead of paying a toll.

Spend more time with family.

Metrolink trains breeze past traffic, saving you time that can be better spent at home. Carpool lanes save users on average a minute per mile.

You might also find you're up for spending more time with family if you're not drained from fighting traffic.

Important Changes on EV Access to Carpool and Express Lanes

You may have heard that electric vehicles (EVs) lost their solo access to carpool lanes when the federal Clean Air Vehicle decal program ended on Oct. 1. If you get caught driving alone in the carpool lane, even in an EV, you can be cited.

It's not just carpool lanes that are affected. There is also no longer a discount for EVs using California's express lanes. Drivers of EVs will now pay the full toll unless they meet the carpool occupancy requirements and have a valid transponder in the vehicle.

In Southern California, these are:

- **91 Express Lanes:** 3+ person carpools ride free except eastbound weekdays from 4 to 6 p.m, when they get a 50% discount.
- **405 Express Lanes:** 2-person carpools ride free during non-peak hours, and 3+ person carpools ride free at all times.
- **Metro ExpressLanes on I-10 in Los Angeles County:** 3+-person carpools ride free at all hours, 2-person carpools ride free during off-peak hours.
- **SB Express Lanes on I-10:** 3+ person carpools travel toll free at all times.
- **Metro ExpressLanes on I-110:** 2+-person carpools ride free.
- **15 Express Lanes (Riverside Express):** 3+ person carpools always ride free.

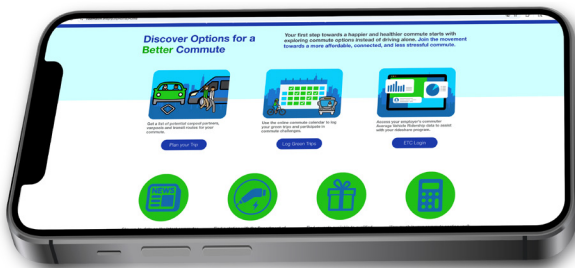
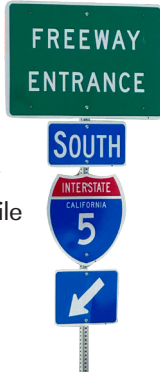


A Year in Review – 7 Big Changes You May Have Missed

From better carpool lanes to free shuttles and more, here are seven happenings in transportation in the past year that could affect how you get to work:

1. Traveling on the I-5 got a little easier. Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and Caltrans wrapped up improvements on the I-5 Freeway between SR-73 and El Toro Road. The 6.5-mile stretch now includes an additional general-purpose lane in each direction—from Avery Parkway to Alicia Parkway.

The project extended the second carpool lane from Alicia Parkway to El Toro Road. Carpool lanes were also converted to continuous access, making it safer and easier for motorists to enter and exit the lanes at any time.



2. Ridematch.info underwent a bit of a facelift. Ridematch.info's homepage got a new look and now sports a more user-friendly design and interface. **Ridematch.info** allows you to instantly generate customized carpool/vanpool matches and transit routing.

It features other ridesharing resources as well, such as Park & Ride lots and EV charging stations.

3. Costa Mesa launched a free shuttle. Costa Mesa this year 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.



4. OCTA updated its Bikeways Map. The map 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](#).



5. Metrolink riders can sign up for alerts. A new alerts tool 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.



6. LA Metro opened the LAX/Metro Transit Center, expanding transit options to LAX. Located at Aviation Boulevard and 96th Street, the LAX/Metro Transit Center offers riders dozens of convenient transit connections to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

The station serves two light rail lines—the C and K Lines—as well as several Metro and partner agency bus lines.

Ultimately, it will include a direct connection to the airport via the LAX Automated People Mover, expected to open next year.



7. Metrolink introduced a new SoCal Day Pass. It offers unlimited rides for \$10 on weekends and \$15 on weekdays.

Departments That Went "the Extra Mile"

To collect the best data possible and meet clean air mandates, it's vital that the County gets a high participation for the transportation survey. Thank you to everyone who turned in a survey—and a special thanks to departments with a 90% or higher response rate:

- Campaign Finance & Ethics
- Child Support Services (CSS)
- Clerk of the Board (COB)
- Clerk-Recorder
- Internal Audit
- John Wayne Airport (JWA)
- OC Community Resources (OCCR)
- OC Public Works (OCPW)
- Office of Independent Review
- Sheriff-Coroner
- Superior Court (COURTS)



Been Thinking About Trying Metrolink?

Metrolink now offers a **comprehensive guide** to walk you through everything you need to know—from finding your best route to buying tickets and even how to connect to local buses and shuttles at the station.

Once you start riding regularly, you may qualify for **discounts for your first three months through the Rideshare Office**. New riders can be reimbursed for 75% of fares in the first month, 50% in the second month and 25% in the third.



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.



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 all day on Metrolink trains throughout Southern California. Just arrive at the station and board the train (no ticket required).



OC Commuter

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