



# Club Rideshare

March 2026 Newsletter



## 5 Rideshare Resources for an Easier Commute

If you rideshare, you're already enjoying the benefits of a more enjoyable, less stressful commute. Here are ways to make it even easier:

**1. The Transit app**—Download the **Transit app**, and you won't need to wait at the bus stop, wondering when your bus will arrive. The app provides real-time transit tracking as well as trip planning and alerts for service disruptions.

OC Bus also offers a **free upgrade to Transit Royale**, the premium subscription version of the Transit app.

(Although Metrolink trains aren't tracked on the Transit app, you can sign up to receive text or email alerts on your usual route at [metrolinktrains.com](http://metrolinktrains.com).)



**2. A free ride home in case of emergency**—If an emergency arises on a day that you rideshare to work, **the County will reimburse you for a ride home** via taxi, transit or Uber/Lyft (up to two times per year).

Qualifying emergencies include illness (you or a family member), if your carpool partner leaves due to illness and you no longer have a ride home, or if you need to work unexpected overtime.

**3. SoCal 511**—If you need travel help in Southern California, you can find it 24/7 at [SoCal511.com](http://SoCal511.com).

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## Tips for Riding E-Bikes "in the Wild"

A new, short e-bike video from Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) takes a lighthearted look at the challenges of mixing e-bikes with pedestrian and motor traffic. In the style of a mock nature documentary, it offers valuable safety tips for adult and youth riders.

Watch it at [octa.net/bike](http://octa.net/bike). Then make a safety pledge for a chance to **win a \$100 gift card**.



## Turn Your Carpool into a Vanpool

OCTA describes a vanpool as a "super carpool." It's typically five or more people who commute together regularly in a leased van, splitting expenses.

Vanpooling is ideal for people who travel 15 or more miles each way and work a consistent schedule.

If you currently carpool, you may be able to expand that to a vanpool by simply adding a few more riders. Vanpools offer benefits such as no wear and tear to your vehicle and the opportunity to skip driving entirely or

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## 5 Rideshare Resources...(from page 1)

It's a one-stop shop for commuters that includes an up-to-the-minute map of traffic speeds, camera feeds, SigAlerts and travel advisories.

You'll also find helpful tools such as a map of electric vehicle charging stations, Park & Ride information, transit arrival times and bike resources.

**Complete a brief survey** to give your input on SoCal 511 and be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 gift cards.



## 4.

### RideGuide trip planner—A

RideGuide is a personalized list of potential carpool partners, bus/rail routing, Park & Ride lots along your commute and more.

Even if you currently have a rideshare arrangement, it could come in handy if that changes for any reason.

Generate one instantly at [ridematch.info](http://ridematch.info) or contact the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600, [rideshare@ceo.oc.gov](mailto:rideshare@ceo.oc.gov) for assistance.

## 5.

### The OC Bus Navigator—

Make the most of your ride on OC Bus with this special list of **resources that enhance your well-being and happiness.**

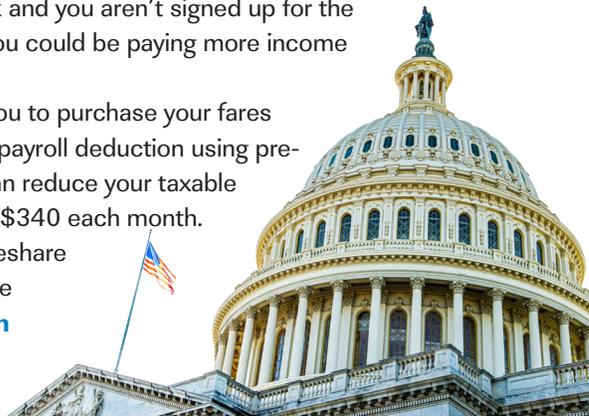


## Are You Paying Too Much Income Tax?

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 \$340 each month.

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



## Turn Your Carpool...(from page 1)

get a discount if you volunteer to drive. You may also qualify for subsidies of up to \$800 a month toward lease costs.

Find out how to get into vanpooling at the next Lunch and Learn virtual workshop on April 22, 12 to 1 p.m.

Lunch and Learn workshops are offered every other month by the Rideshare Office. To register and receive a link to sign in, [click here.](#)

## 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:

- Jazmin De La Cruz, Social Services Agency
- Paul Dompas, Health Care Agency
- Karen Leland, Health Care Agency



## Have You Moved?

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



## Club Rideshare

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