



OC Commuter

News for a better commute from the OC Rideshare Office



OC Bus Service Changes

OC Bus recently made schedule adjustments on bus routes to improve service and better meet riders' needs.

To see if your route is impacted—or if the changes mean you may have a better option on OC Bus—visit octa.net.



How Much Time Do You Waste Sitting in Traffic?

If your answer is “too much,” you’re not alone. The average American spends 63 hours per year stuck in traffic, according to the **Urban Mobility Report**, a study that regularly tracks traffic levels across the nation.

In the Los Angeles-Orange County region, that number more than doubles to 137 hours wasted. That’s the equivalent of nearly three and a half work weeks.

While rush-hour is still the worst time to drive, traffic congestion has spread to more times of the day and more days per week.

“The numbers show more traffic than we’ve ever seen, but also a different kind of traffic,” said David Schrank, *(Continued on page 2)*

Help Improve SoCal 511, Win \$100

If you need travel help in Southern California, you can find it 24/7 at SoCal511.com or by calling 511.

The SoCal511 network features information from traffic speeds and travel times to transit routing, carpool matching, Park & Ride maps and more.

It is currently undergoing a revamp and is asking people to weigh in on what would make it a more valuable resource for both residents and visitors. **Complete a brief online survey** to share your input. When you do, you’ll be entered into a drawing to win one of five \$100 gift cards. *(Continued on page 2)*



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How Much Time Do You Waste...? *(Continued from page 1)*

lead author of the study. "Hybrid work capabilities, online shopping and other changes in our daily lives have reshaped when and where congestion happens. This can create more unpredictability and make travel harder to plan."

The Rideshare Office Can Help

Instead of idling in traffic tie-ups, you may be able to travel faster in a carpool lane or avoid driving altogether by riding a bus or the train.

To get a personalized list of potential carpool partners, bus/rail routing and more, contact the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600, rideshare@ceo.oc.gov.

Yearly Cost of Traffic Congestion in LA/OC Per Commuter



Save the Date for the Next Lunch and Learn

The next Lunch and Learn virtual workshop is April 22, 12 to 1 p.m. Tune in to learn more about vanpooling and if it can be an option for your commute.

A vanpool is a group of riders who ride to work together regularly in a leased van, splitting expenses. Learn about how to find a seat on an existing vanpool, start a vanpool, and even qualify for monthly subsidies of up to \$800 toward lease costs.

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



OCTA 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 areas that are otherwise not open to the public.

Upcoming hikes are March 7 at Wren's View Preserve and July 25 at Pacific Horizon Preserve.

See the full schedule at preservingourlegacy.org.

Transit Profile: RTA Route 200 CommuterLink Express

If you live in the Inland Empire, riding the bus to work may be an option that will make your commute faster, less stressful and more affordable.

The route: Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) CommuterLink Express Route 200.

Where it travels: It begins at the San Bernardino Downtown Transit Center, makes a stop at the Vine Street Mobility Hub in Riverside, and travels on the 91 Freeway to Anaheim (where its final stops are the Anaheim Convention Center and Disneyland).

Travel time: With only six stops, express buses get you to your destination faster than local buses. Route 200 buses save even more time because they can use the 91 express lanes.

Cost: One-way fare is \$3.50. Rides are free if you have a valid Metrolink train pass.

Features: Buses come with free Wi-Fi, plush seats, overhead reading lights, luggage and bike racks and USB charging ports.

Find out more: Visit Riversidetransit.com or call 951.565.5002.



April is Earthquake Preparedness Month

Do you have an alternate way home from work if your usual commute is disrupted?

Just as you should plan for an earthquake in your home, you should also make an emergency plan for your commute.

A RideGuide can be a helpful tool so that you have options on hand including potential carpool partners and bus/rail routes. Download one now at ridematch.info or contact the Rideshare Office.

In Case You Missed It...

The most recent Lunch and Learn workshop outlined rideshare incentives the County offers to employees. These include a \$300 vanpool start-up bonus, reimbursement of up to 75% of on transit fares for new riders, a \$100 incentive when you buy or lease a qualifying electric vehicle (within 90 days) and sign-up/renewal bonuses as a Club Rideshare member.

Find out more at hrs.oc.gov/rideshare.



3 Ways to Celebrate Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22. Get into the spirit of the day that since 1970 has promoted protecting the environment.

1. Choose an alternative to driving alone. Motor vehicles are the cause of most of the emissions that cause smog. To encourage people to choose an alternative to driving alone, rides will be free all day on Metrolink, Metro Bus and Rail, as well as all San Bernardino County and Ventura County transit providers.

2. Learn how you contribute to pollution. Visit CoolCalifornia.org to quickly calculate your personal carbon footprint and learn ways to reduce it.

3. Attend an Earth Day event. Go to earthday.org to find out about virtual and in-person Earth Day events near you.

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

Do you live in Riverside or San Bernardino counties? IE Commuter is celebrating Earth Day throughout April. Join the Earth Day 2026 promotion and log your rideshare days for a chance to win prizes. Each trip logged is an entry into the raffle. The more you rideshare or telework, the better your chances to win.

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

Construction Will Be Underway Soon on the I-5

Construction will soon begin on a **project to improve traffic flow on the I-5 Freeway**. It will impact a nearly nine-mile stretch of I-5 between I-405 and SR-55. Planned improvements include:

- Adding one general-purpose lane in each direction
- Adding auxiliary (on- and off-ramp merge) lanes

- Upgrading pedestrian curb ramps
- Repainting bike lanes, adding lighting and installing guardrails and concrete barriers

The project is expected to be complete in 2030. To better manage your commute during construction, **sign up to receive weekly alerts**.



Get in Gear for Bike Month

May is National Bike Month, and there's plenty in store to help you discover the joys of commuting by bike, including e-bikes. Here's how you can participate—even if you've never biked to work before.

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

- **Live too far from the office to bike the whole way?** Metrolink allows you to bring your bike onboard. OC Bus (and most transit agencies) have front-end bike racks.

- **Safely stow your bike at work.** The County provides bike storage facilities that feature secure bike racks. There are also air compressors available for flat or deflated tires.

The facilities are located in front of the Central Administration Building North (CAN) and the Central Administration Building South (CAS) near the multi-purpose rooms.

- **Be e-bike safe.** Get tips for e-bike safety in this short, humorous video that parodies a David Attenborough-style nature documentary. Watch it at octa.net/bike. Then pledge to follow the "eight laws of the OC jungle" for a chance to **win a \$100 gift card**.



- **Join in a bike rally.** Meet up with other cyclists at the Orange Metrolink Station for a rally with t-shirts, refreshments, speakers and more. Then enjoy a group ride to OCTA headquarters on Main Street. The date and time are yet to be announced so look for updates at octa.net/bike.

- **Win prizes.** Make the pledge to commute by bike at least once during Bike Month for a chance to win a cycling prize package from OCTA.

More information on Bike Month in Orange County—along with updated rally and prize details and a link to pledge to bike to work—will be posted at octa.net/bike.



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Email: 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

