



OC Commuter

News for a better commute from the OC Rideshare Office



Save 25% on OC Bus Fares

Due to changes in OCTA's invoicing process, the County has ended the Perk Pass program. Instead, employees can now get a 25% reimbursement on OC Bus fares.

Standard fares using Wave are \$2 per trip, with daily and monthly caps of \$4.50 and \$69.

To get started, create an account and add funds directly onto your OCTA Wave mobile app, Wave digital account or physical Wave card (available for \$2 at the OCTA Store or \$4 at participating retail locations).

Important Changes in OC Bus Fares

Paper passes are no longer accepted on OC Bus. Instead, riders must use the Wave app, a Wave card, a contactless credit or debit card, or exact cash for single rides.

In addition, the OC Bus mobile fare payment app was recently discontinued and replaced by the Wave app.

OC Bus will continue to use the Transit app, however, for trip planning and real-time information. [Sign up via the OCTA website](#) to get a free upgrade to Transit Royale, the premium version of the app.



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"My Commute"

Vince Luong drives his Tesla Motor 3 electric vehicle from Anaheim to where he works for the Audit Controller in Santa Ana. "It's really convenient. I don't have to go fuel up gas anymore," he says. "I can charge at home every night and the next day it's full."



With the current spike in gas prices, he's also enjoying a significant cost savings bypassing the pumps.

He made the switch from a gas-powered car to an EV in 2018 and was able to qualify for a federal EV tax credit, as well as the **\$100 EV incentive** that the County offers to employees.

Lunch and Learn About Transit Benefits

The next Lunch and Learn is June 24, 12 to 1 p.m. Tune in to learn about money-saving transit benefits—including

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Save 25% on OC Bus Fares... (Continued from page 1)

Then submit a copy of your fare costs each month using the OCTA Monthly Pass Reimbursement E-Form, and submit by the 5th of the following month. Your reimbursement will be added to your next paycheck.

Questions? Contact the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600, rideshare@ceo.oc.gov.



Lunch and Learn... (Continued from page 1)

reimbursements of up to 75% for new riders and the new 25% OC Bus discount incentive.

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](#). For more information, contact the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600.



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 through Labor Day.

- **The Dana Point Trolley** runs daily through Sept. 7 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. 7, 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**.



Celebrate the World Cup Without Traffic Hassles

The 2026 FIFA World Cup is coming to Southern California starting June 12. To make it easier for fans to get to matches and special events, Metrolink will operate dedicated World Cup service.

They'll be adding 48 additional trains over a 10-day period, including on the Orange County line. This expanded service will travel to and from Los Angeles Union Station for all eight local match days and two additional Fan Zone days.

Learn more and plan your trip at metrolinktrains.com/world-cup.



Is Vanpooling Right for You?

A vanpool is a group of riders who commute together regularly in a leased van, splitting expenses. The County's most recent Lunch and Learn workshop explored vanpooling as a commute option—including detailing discounts available to vanpoolers.

In case you missed it, here are some of the important questions the session addressed:

Q. Would vanpooling be an option for my commute?

A. It is ideal for people who commute 30 or more miles round trip and maintain a set, full-time schedule that can be matched to other riders. If you work a hybrid schedule, you still may benefit from vanpooling if you ride in three to four days a week.

Q. How much does it cost?

A. Cost varies based on lease costs, the distance you travel and the number of riders in the vehicle. Vanpools in Orange County may qualify for **up to \$800 in monthly subsidies** toward lease costs, making it a more affordable choice. Other savings include putting fewer miles and less wear and tear on your vehicle.

Q. Who drives the van?

A. A vanpool can rotate drivers, or designate one driver and an alternate, who often pay a reduced fare in compensation.

Q. What are the advantages of vanpooling?

A. Vanpool riders can use their time to rest and relax—whether reading a book, scrolling their phones or chatting with other riders. You may also be able to breeze past traffic in the carpool lane or ride toll-free or at a discount in an Express Lane so you'll get home earlier.

Q. How do I find an available seat on a vanpool?

A. The Rideshare Office can generate a list of vanpools with a schedule and route that matches yours. You can contact them directly to see if there's an open seat. You can also generate a list of potential vanpools at ridematch.info.

If there aren't any vanpools available, you can get one started with as few as five riders.

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) provides one-on-one help setting up a vanpool, leasing a van and applying for subsidies.





5 Ways to Save Money on Gas

Gas prices in Orange County are on average more than \$6 a gallon. Here, we offer five ways to spend a little less overall on gas:

1. Use a gas station app. Smartphone apps, such as those from AAA or GasBuddy, can show you the lowest gas prices near you. The Google Maps and Waze apps also offer gas price information.



2. Lighten up. Still carting around those packed coolers in the trunk? An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could reduce your mpg by up to 2%.

3. Keep up with vehicle maintenance. Regular oil changes, air filter replacements and making sure tires are properly inflated increases fuel efficiency.



4. Make fewer trips. Bundle errands and appointments so you don't have to make multiple trips.

5. Leave the car at home. Whenever you can, opt to walk, bike, carpool, vanpool or ride transit instead of driving. The Rideshare Office can help you find alternatives to driving or visit ridematch.info to generate a list of potential carpool partners, get transit routing and more.



Catch the OC Fair Express

The OC Fair Express runs Saturdays and Sundays, July 17 to Aug. 16, dropping off riders directly at the fairgrounds in Costa Mesa. Fares are \$2 each way, and youth 18 and under ride for free. You can purchase tickets using the OC Bus mobile app or directly when you board.

The OC Fair Express departs from locations in Anaheim, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Irvine and the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center. Buses run every 30 minutes.



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 via taxi, Lyft/Uber or transit per fiscal year. If you've already claimed two rides home, your tally resets to zero as of July 1.



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