



# OC Commuter

News for a better commute from the OC Rideshare Office



## 5 Ways to Save Money on Gas



Gas prices in California have reached record highs in recent months (and still seem to be on the rise). If you've been experiencing sticker shock at the pumps, here are some ways you can save money on gas:

### 1. Get the lowest gas prices nearby.

You don't need to burn gas driving around looking for the cheapest prices. Apps such as [gasbuddy.com](http://gasbuddy.com) list costs-per-gallon at stations near you.



### 2. Ride a bus or train instead of driving.

Transit is already typically a bargain over driving, and—unlike driving—the cost of riding transit doesn't go up when gas prices do.

For added savings, pay for your transit pass using payroll deduction through the County's Commuter Choice program. This allows you to **pay fares using pre-tax dollars**, reducing your overall taxable income by up to \$280 per month.



### 3. Drive less.

Carpool with just one other person on your daily commute and you'll cut gas prices in half. Even carpooling as little as once a week can add up in cost savings—especially when gas prices are on the rise.

Don't have anyone to share the ride? Contact the Rideshare Office or visit [ridematch.info](http://ridematch.info) for a list of people who live and work near you with a similar schedule who might want to carpool.

(More on page 2)



## Special for Summer—Metrolink \$15 Day Pass

As a special deal for the summer, you can get a 1-Day Metrolink pass Monday through Friday for just \$15. It's good for travel anywhere Metrolink goes, all day.

The Summer Day Pass is only available via the [Metrolink app](#).

If your travel is on the weekend, Metrolink year-round offers a Day Pass for \$10 to ride all day on Saturdays or Sundays.



## Another Metrolink Bargain...

### Metrolink Flex Pass

• **Metrolink's new 10-Day Flex Pass** offers a 10% discount over regular round-trip fares. The 10-Day Flex Pass includes 10 1-Day passes valid for 60 days. A 5-Day Flex Pass is also available.

For more savings, you can pay for your Metrolink pass using pre-tax dollars—up to \$280 per month—through payroll deduction.



# OC Commuter

## 5 Ways to Save Money on Gas (Continued from page 1)

**4. Whenever you can, walk or bike instead of driving.** Biking can be an option even if you live far from the office—just ride to your nearby transit stop and bring your bike on board.



**5. Drive smart.** A few tips for better fuel efficiency: Slow down and drive the speed limit. Avoid accelerating quickly. Combine errands so you'll drive fewer miles and travel more often on a warmed-up (and therefore more efficient) engine.

Another smart solution: If you're in the market for a new car, consider



making the gas-saving switch to an electric or hybrid car or truck. (You may qualify for a **rebate of up to \$7,000** through the California Clean Vehicle Rebate Project and a **\$100 rebate** through the County of Orange).



## Free Summer Trolleys

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. 25. The system is made up of two routes: a Downtown Red Line and a North San Clemente Blue Line.

- **The Laguna Niguel Trolley** will take riders from City Hall and the YMCA to various locations along Pacific Coast Highway all summer long, including Salt Creek Beach in Dana Point. It runs daily every 20 minutes until Sept. 5.

- **The Dana Point Trolley** runs daily through Sept. 5 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 until Sept. 5, providing service around the peninsula. It also offers service on three major Monday holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day.

## Have a Long Commute? Vanpooling Might Be for You!

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) describes vanpooling as “a super carpool comprising groups of riders with common schedules and similar work and home destinations.” Instead of battling traffic, riders can relax on the commute, getting to work and home faster and with less stress.

Vanpooling is a great option if you...

- Commute 15 or more miles each way.
- Work a consistent schedule.
- Can ride with the OC vanpool at least three to four days a week.

### Save Big Over Driving Alone

Riders save money by splitting expenses. OCTA also offers a monthly subsidy to vanpools that covers roughly 25% of the cost of vanpooling.



To qualify, vans usually need to have at least 70% occupancy. Vanpools formed prior to July 1, however, can qualify for OCTA subsidies with as little as 50% occupancy. (That means four riders in an eight-passenger vehicle.)

### To Start Vanpooling...

- Contact the Rideshare Office or log onto [ridematch.info](http://ridematch.info) to see if there's a vanpool that will work for you with a seat available.

- No current vanpool? You can get help to get one started. The Rideshare Office offers how-to advice, can identify potential riders and can set you up with money-saving ideas, such as paying fares using pre-tax dollars via payroll deduction. OCTA's Vanpool Program specialist also offers assistance in organizing a vanpool—from helping with how to lease a van to setting up the rules for the road to offering monthly subsidies to defray costs.

Get details at [octa.net/vanpool](http://octa.net/vanpool) or by calling 714.560.5331.

## OC Green Expo and EV Test Drive

Find out more about electric vehicles—and maybe even test drive one—at the OC Green Expo and EV Test Drive, June 11, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in downtown Anaheim.

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

For details, visit [anaheim.net/greenexpo](http://anaheim.net/greenexpo).



### Please Note:

The Rideshare Office is part of the Human Resources Services (HRS) department, and now the title has been expanded to HRS – Employee Benefits.

The change is to reflect the fact that the Rideshare Office oversees many benefits for employees, including:

- Incentives such as **discounts of up to 75% for trying transit**
- **Monthly subsidies for vanpoolers** that save them about 25% usual fares
- **Payroll deductions for transit costs** that save employees money on taxes
- **Reimbursement for emergency rides** home for ridesharing employees
- Help finding commute options, prize drawings and more.

## Try Metrolink for Free!

Thinking of trying Metrolink as an alternative to driving as you return to the worksite?

Metrolink in partnership with the Rideshare Office is offering employees one free round-trip pass good for travel between any two stations so you can “try before you buy.”

This deal is only available to new Metrolink riders (not for Club Rideshare members or those currently paying for Metrolink using payroll deduction). It is limited to the first 100 County of Orange or Superior Court employees to apply.

To apply for your free ticket, send an email by June 10 to [rideshare@ocgov.com](mailto:rideshare@ocgov.com) and include the following details:

- First and last name
- Employee ID number
- Name of the Metrolink stations that are closest to your home and worksite ([see Metrolink map for station locations](#))
- Your pony mail address

We’ll pony mail a postcard with a personalized promotion ticket code valid through Dec. 31 along with details on how to redeem that code for your free Metrolink round-trip ticket. (The promotional postcard cannot be mailed to your home address.)

### Is your worksite not quite close enough to a Metrolink station to walk the rest of the way?

The Metrolink Irvine and Tustin stations are served by iShuttle: fixed route **shuttles that meet trains at the station** and connect to many major work destinations in the area. Metrolink riders can transfer free.

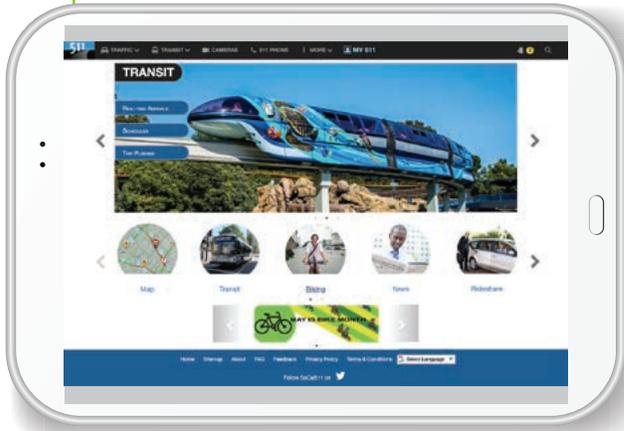
Tustin iShuttle offers three routes serving the Irvine Business Complex area. The Irvine iShuttle currently services the Irvine Spectrum Center and nearby.



## Go511.com Expands to Include More of Southern California

Need to get traffic updates? Alerts? Want to find a transit route? Carpool help?

Now there's a website—[go511.com](http://go511.com)—that offers one-stop shopping for people traveling in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties.



Using data from apps such as Google and Waze—as well as from CHP and Caltrans—go511.com provides up-to-date information to help you get where you need to go.

While the online service has been available in Orange County for years, the

Inland Empire previously had its own separate 511 online service.

With so many people commuting across counties, transportation agencies recently consolidated to allow for seamless service. Now you can get the help you need even if you work in Orange County but live in the Inland Empire or anywhere else in Southern California.

Some of what it features:

- Traffic maps and alerts
- Links to traffic cameras to view real-time road conditions
- Information on biking, vanpool, carpooling and Park & Rides
- An online trip-planner
- News that impacts travelers
- Rideshare help and more

### Or Call 511 from Any Phone

Dial 511 from any phone to reach automated help for travel, including roadside assistance. 511 is available in Southern California 24/7 in English and Spanish.



## Don't Worry, You Won't Be Without a Ride

If an emergency arises on a day that you rideshare to work, you can be reimbursed for a ride home using a taxi, rental, Uber/Lyft or other approved service thanks to the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program.

You can claim a GRH reimbursement up to two times per calendar year.

GRH can be used if:

- You or a family member are ill
- There is a family emergency
- You miss your ride because of working unexpected overtime
- Your carpool or vanpool driver is ill, has an emergency or is working unexpected overtime

For more information about GRH, or to find forms to claim a reimbursement, [click here](#).

## Join the Club

If you rideshare as few as seven times a month, you might [qualify for the Club Rideshare program](#). If you do, you'll get a \$40 bonus added to your paycheck when you sign up, plus renewal bonuses, chances at prize drawings, and more.

See if you qualify and [sign up here](#).



## OC Commuter

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

Phone: 714.834.7600

Web: <https://hrs.ocgov.com/hr-resources/rideshare>

OC Rideshare Program Office  
County of Orange  
Human Resources Services  
333. W. Santa Ana Blvd.,  
Bldg. 10, 1st Floor

