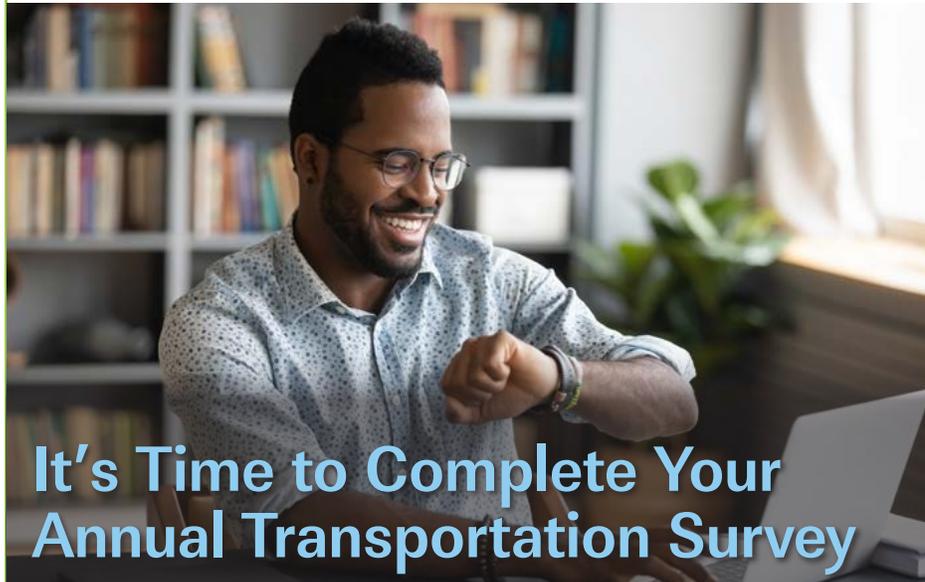




OC Commuter

News for a better commute from the OC Rideshare Office



It's Time to Complete Your Annual Transportation Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete the Annual Transportation Survey. Then **submit the survey by the Friday, Sept. 30 deadline** to qualify to win one of eight \$100 Amazon gift cards. (If you submit your form after the deadline, you may still have a chance to win one of eight \$25 Amazon gift cards.)

The survey collects information on how you commuted the week of Sept. 12-16.*

You should have received it via email from the Rideshare Office, or you can download it [here](#).

Answers to the Most Commonly Asked Questions About the Survey

"Do I have to complete it?"

Yes, it is mandatory for employees to complete and turn in the survey. The County is required to conduct this survey annually to meet clean air mandates.

The data 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.

"I don't commute into the office; I telework. Do I still fill out a survey?"

Yes, and in fact it's important that teleworkers and hybrid workers are included.

(More on page 2)

*Prizes may be subject to taxation and reported on an employee's W2.

Why You Should You Say "Yes" to a RideGuide...

When you fill out the annual transportation survey (see story, Left) you also 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 you might want 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.
- During the pandemic, many transportation options—especially vanpool, bus and rail—were suspended or greatly curtailed. The RideGuide will give you the most up-to-date options so you can see if there's something better than what you're currently doing.
- You don't have to use it, but it'll be there if you need it.



OC Commuter

...to Complete Your Annual Transportation Survey *(Continued from page 1)*

The survey measures on average how many employees are working vs. how many vehicles are coming into the worksite.

On a day you're working at home, that counts as "zero" commute—which when averaged in helps lower the County's overall drive-alone rate.

"How do I fill out the survey form if I work a flex schedule?"

On the days you don't commute because you work a compressed week, you'll fill in the day on the form with an X, Y or Z instead of a commute mode.



- Choose "X" if you work 3/36, (you work your full-time schedule for the week in three days).
- Choose "Y" if you work a 4/40, (you work your full-time schedule for the week in four days).
- Choose "Z" if you work a 9/80, (over a two-week period, you get one day off).

Be sure to select your normal work start time, even for the flex days off.

For More Information...

Contact OC Rideshare at 714.834.7600 or rideshare@ocgov.com.

New Metrolink Fare Discounts

Metrolink this month is introducing a new fare program that saves low-income riders 50% off the usual fares.

In October, Metrolink will celebrate its 30th anniversary, but it is riders who'll get the gifts. Metrolink is offering a 30% discount on monthly passes for October, November and December.

To find out more, visit metrolinktrains.com.



Drive Less, Smile More

Join in on Rideshare Week for a Chance to Win Great Prizes!

Rideshare Week is Oct. 3-7, and it's your chance to enjoy a happier, less costly, less stressful commute.

Here's what's happening:



Throughout Southern California

Metrolink will be celebrating Rideshare Week. Details are still in the works, so check back at metrolinktrains.com, or join them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Orange County

Rideshare at least one day during Rideshare Week and you'll have a chance to win great prizes, including an Apple Watch and Apple AirPods Pro.

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

Riverside/San Bernardino Counties

If you live in the Inland Empire, throughout the entire month of October, when you sign up and log your rideshare activity on IECommuter.org, you'll qualify to win prizes. You may also be eligible for IE Commuter's [\\$5/Day program](#) to earn additional rewards.



Upcoming Events



September is Rail Safety Month. Get tips for staying safe around the tracks from Operation Lifesaver at oli.org.



World Car-Free Day is Sept. 22, a day that celebrates alternatives to driving for cleaner air and less traffic.



National Drive Electric Week is Sept. 23-Oct. 2. Join in on events (many are online) to learn more about electric vehicles—especially helpful if you're thinking of buying or leasing an EV.

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



Rideshare Week is Oct. 3-7. Pledge to rideshare at at least one day during the week for a chance to win prizes. Find out more at octa.net.

California Clean Air Day is Oct. 5. **Make a commitment** to do something on Clean Air Day to contribute to air quality—whether leaving the car at home and riding the bus instead of driving, planting a tree or changing out your car's air filter.



The New Bravo! Route 553

Coming Soon: Rapid Bus Service Between Anaheim and Irvine

OC Bus in October will introduce the **new Bravo! Route 553**. This rapid, limited-stop bus service will run along Main Street in Santa Ana, Orange and Anaheim.

Currently, this corridor is served by OC Bus Route 53, which offers local service (and will continue when the limited-stop service begins).

Another improvement: Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) recently installed 23 electric bus signs along the route. **Riders will be able to see accurate, up-to-the-minute bus arrival time** and other information that will make riding the bus easier and more convenient.



Deals & Discounts

Earn Points for Free Metrolink Rides

Join Metrolink's SoCal Explorer program, and when you ride on Metrolink, you'll earn points toward a free ticket. You'll also get access to discounts at restaurants, retailers and attractions across Southern California. It's free to join. Sign up at socalexplorer.metrolinktrains.com.

Eat Shop Play

The Eat Shop Play program supports local businesses impacted by construction along the path of the OC Streetcar.

Sign up to get deals and discounts at Santa Ana restaurants, shopping, entertainment and more. You'll also receive coupons and learn about one-of-a-kind events.



Do You Qualify for Any of These Rideshare Program Perks?

If you carpool, vanpool, ride transit, bike or walk to work, you can enjoy a lower-cost commute vs. driving alone. Through the County Rideshare Office, you may also qualify for other money-saving benefits.

• **\$40, Plus Monthly Prize Drawings**—If you rideshare, telework or drive an EV/PHEV to work as few as 20 times over the past 90 days, you can join Club Rideshare. You'll earn a \$40 sign-up bonus, plus qualify for monthly prize drawings of \$25 gift cards.



• **"Try Transit" Fare Reimbursement—Save Up to 75%**—If you're new to riding transit, you may be able to be reimbursed for a portion of your OC Bus or Metrolink train passes for the first three months.

County and Superior Court employees can save 75% the first month, 50% the second month and 25% the third month.



• **"Get a Charge" EV**

Incentive—You may be eligible for a **\$100 incentive when you purchase or lease an electric car or truck or plug-in hybrid.**



• **Reduce Your Taxable Income—Use payroll deduction to purchase bus, train or vanpool fares.** You'll be able to pay for them using pre-tax dollars, which will reduce your overall taxable income by up to \$280 per month.

• **Monthly Vanpool Subsidy**—A vanpool is a group of people who commute together regularly in a van, splitting expenses. If you start a new vanpool, you could be eligible for a **\$300 monthly subsidy** toward the cost of leasing a vanpool vehicle. The Rideshare Office can help you find fellow riders and offer advice for getting a vanpool underway.



OCTA also offers vanpool assistance.

• **Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH)**—If you need to get home due to an emergency on a day you rideshare, you can be reimbursed for the cost of a taxi, rental car or Uber/Lyft ride (up to two times per fiscal year).

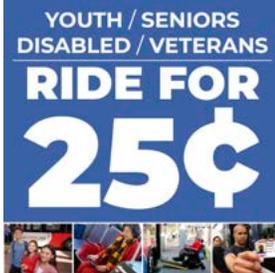


RTA Offers 25-Cent Rides

Youth, seniors, disabled and veterans now ride for just 25-cents

on Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) buses, including CommuterLink.

Cash, coin and Token Transit app payment are accepted. The discount rate will last through June 2023.



Construction Begins on SR-55

Construction is now underway on SR-55 to add one regular lane and one carpool lane in each direction, among other improvements.

The project impacts a 4-mile stretch between I-405 and I-5 and is expected to be complete in 2026.

For construction updates and alerts, sign up at octa.net.

The Rideshare Office Has Moved

The Rideshare Office is now located at 601 N. Ross St. in Santa Ana. Stop by with any rideshare-related questions, to get help finding a carpool or transit route—or just to say hi!



OC Commuter

Email: 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
601 N. Ross St., Santa Ana

