



# Club Rideshare

December 2022 Newsletter



## OC Bus Service Update

As of the publication of this newsletter, labor negotiations remain ongoing between Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and the union representing the agency's 150 maintenance workers.

After a brief strike in early November, bus service was reinstated. However, according to OCTA, the union said it could call a strike again at any time.

For the latest updates, visit [octa.net](https://www.octa.net) or call the OCTA Customer Information Center at 714.636.7433.

Contact the Rideshare Office if you need help finding alternative commute arrangements in the event of strike. You can also find potential carpool partners and alternate transit options at [ridematch.info](https://ridematch.info).



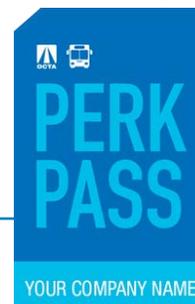
## Keep an Eye Out for Your Perk Pass

Important news for County and Superior Court employees who ride transit: Your new Perk Pass will be mailed out to your home address by

December 13th.

Please keep an eye out for it to arrive after that time.

*(continued)*



## "Can I Get a Ride Home?"

### What Qualifies for a Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) Ride—and What Doesn't

The **GRH program** is one of the perks that the County offers employees who rideshare. It reimburses you for the cost of your ride home if you need one due to illness or emergency.

### You can be reimbursed for a ride home if...

- You or a family member are ill or have a personal emergency.
- Your carpool or vanpool driver leaves early due to emergency or stays at work later due to unscheduled overtime.
- You or your vanpool/carpool driver need to work unexpected overtime.

### A few examples of what would not qualify...

- A ride home on a day you drove alone to work.
- A ride *in* to work.
- Rides home due to a natural disaster such as an earthquake.
- Reimbursement due to booking the wrong train ticket or bus pass or purchasing one that you don't use.
- Reimbursement for anyone other than yourself, the employee.

### Questions? Contact the Rideshare Office

Although you do not need to contact the Rideshare Office prior to scheduling your ride home, you are encouraged to do so if you are concerned whether your emergency will qualify for reimbursement.



## Buy a Metrolink Pass & Win!



This is the last month you'll have a chance to enter to win a free Metrolink monthly pass.

All you need to do is purchase a December Metrolink monthly pass\* (by Dec. 14) to be automatically entered into the raffle to win a free January 2023 pass. Plus, if you bought a pass in October or November, those also count as raffle entries.

The contest is being offered exclusively for County of Orange and Superior Court employees.

Metrolink will notify the winner by Dec. 20 and send a promo code via email.

For added savings, you'll get a 30% discount on the December monthly pass, thanks to a special Metrolink promotion.

\* Pass must be purchased via payroll deduction through the **Rideshare Office**.

## Meet the Rideshare Department

The Rideshare Office oversees the commute benefits offered to County and Superior Court employees, as well as offers rideshare assistance.



**Denise Van Stratten**, employee transportation coordinator—oversees program incentives, questions about ridesharing, newsletters and general rideshare program inquiries.

**Claire Franco**—responsible for monthly Metrolink passes, coordinating and mailing OC Bus Perk Passes and working on the monthly payroll deductions of transit passes for all employees.



**Thomas McCaughey**—employee transportation coordinator—assists with incentive processing, annual South Coast AQMD survey, rideshare events and presentations, and general ridesharing inquiries.



## Contact Us

Email: [rideshare@ocgov.com](mailto:rideshare@ocgov.com); Phone: 714.834.7600

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

The Rideshare Office has moved.

New address: 601 N. Ross St., 2nd Floor, Santa Ana

## Did You... (continued from page 1)

Even if you only occasionally ride the bus, you'll need an updated Perk Pass. It allows you to pre-load transit fares—whether monthly passes or per-ride costs—which are automatically deducted when you tap the card to board.



## IRS Cap Up \$20

For the 2023 tax year, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) maximum if you pay for transit and vanpool fares using pre-tax dollars gets a slight bump—from \$280 to \$300 per month.

For more information, consult your tax professional or **the IRS**.

## Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

We'd like to extend a big "congrats" and thanks for ridesharing to the November winners of the Club Rideshare monthly prize drawing of \$25:

- Diana Perez, OCHCA
- Patricia Baker-Howard, SSA
- Brian Barrios, OCHCA



## 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@ocgov.com](mailto:rideshare@ocgov.com).



## Club Rideshare

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

Phone: 714.834.7600

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

The Rideshare Office Has Moved!  
**OC Rideshare Program Office**  
County of Orange  
Human Resource Services  
601 N. Ross St., 2nd Floor, Santa Ana

