



# Club Rideshare

January 2023 Newsletter



## Renew Your Club Rideshare Membership, Get \$15

It's that time of year to renew your Club Rideshare membership. The OC Rideshare office will be sending out emails by the end of this month to all current Club Rideshare members to renew their participation.

When you renew, you'll get a \$15 bonus in your paycheck—plus you'll continue to qualify for \$25 prize drawings throughout the year.

To be in Club Rideshare, you must have carpooled, vanpooled, rode bus/rail, biked or walked to work 20 or more times over the past 90 days. Driving an electric vehicle and the days you telework also count toward your rideshare totals.

Contact the Rideshare Office if you have any questions. You can [use this link to complete a renewal application online](#) or [download a PDF](#) that you can print out, fill in and submit to the Rideshare Office.

## 5 Surprising Ways Ridesharing Helps You Keep Your New Year's Resolutions

It's a new year, and for many people that means making New Year's resolutions. Here, we take a look at the most common resolutions—and the surprising ways that ridesharing can help you to not break them.

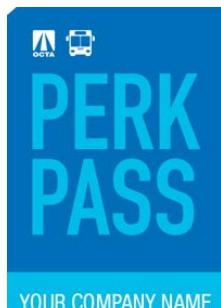
**1. Exercise more/lose weight.** Of course, switching from driving to work to biking or walking is a sure-fire way to burn calories and get in better shape—but did you know riding transit also helps you get closer to your fitness goals?

According to a study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Americans who ride transit spend a median of nearly 20 minutes a day just walking to and from their bus or train. Nearly 30%

(continued)

### Did You Get Your Perk Pass?

New OC Bus Perk Passes were mailed in December to all OC Bus riders. Your Perk Pass allows you to use payroll deduction to pay for transit costs with pre-tax dollars, up to \$69 monthly. If you don't receive a card in the mail—or if you ride transit but aren't currently signed up for Perk Pass—call the OC Rideshare office at 714.834.7600.



YOUR COMPANY NAME



### If You Live in Riverside County...

Riverside Transit Authority (RTA) last month launched GoMicro, on-demand service that will offer shared rides in a zone covering portions of Hemet and San Jacinto. Rides are the same price as local bus service.

Riders can book via an app, online at [riversidetransit.com/gomicro](http://riversidetransit.com/gomicro) or by calling 951.633.2629.





## 5 Surprising... (continued from page 1)

get the full CDC-recommended 30 minutes of exercise a day just because they ride transit.

### 2. Spend more time with friends and family.

If you can use a carpool lane for your commute, you'll typically breeze by traffic—reducing your overall commute time.

Those 91 Express Lanes can also shave time off the commute. If they're out of your budget, good news: Carpools with three or more people can travel toll-free or at a discount.

Spending less time commuting means more time for friends and family

(and even better if you're carpooling with friends or family).



**3. Save money.** It's hard to put money into savings when it's all being poured into your gas tank. Sharing the

ride means splitting expenses. Riding transit is typically cheaper than driving alone, too (especially if you **pay for transit fares using pre-tax dollars**).



**4. Be more productive.** Walking or biking lets you squeeze a workout into your commute. Riding the bus or train also lets you make better use of your time. Catch up on emails. Read a book. Take up knitting.



**5. Be happier/reduce stress.** Sitting in traffic can take a toll on your well-being—not to mention your blood pressure. Thanks to people ridesharing, there's a lot less traffic (and a lot less "road rage") than there might otherwise be.

## Arrow Rail Service Adds Early-Morning and Late-Night Trains

Metrolink Arrow last month added trains to expand the schedule to accommodate early-morning and late-night riders.

Trains now run weekdays 4:30 a.m. to 10:43 p.m. Weekend service is 5:34 a.m. to 11:32 p.m.

The entire nine-mile Arrow extension has been designated a "Quiet Zone" so that early morning and late-night trains don't disturb nearby communities. A Quiet Zone is a section of rail at which locomotive horns are exempt from routinely sounding when trains approach crossings, except in emergency situations.

For more information, visit [metrolinktrains.com/arrow](http://metrolinktrains.com/arrow).



## 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

## IRS Cap for Transit Increases By \$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.

The County **allows employees to pay for fares using pre-tax dollars**, thus lowering overall income and potentially saving on income tax.

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 December winners of the Club Rideshare monthly prize drawing of \$25:

- Trevor Scott, OCSD
- Nina Lipari, SSA
- Carlos Gonzalez, Superior Court



## 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).

