

OC Commuter

News for a better commute from the OC Rideshare Office



Find a Better Commute—Join a Virtual “Lunch and Learn”

The Rideshare Office is offering a series of “Lunch and Learn” workshops where you can find out about various rideshare options that can help you find a better way to commute.

The 30-minute workshops are conducted online via Teams, followed by a 30-minute session for participants to ask questions.

Mark Your Calendar for the Next Lunch and Learn:

Wednesday, April 19, 12 Noon

Topic: Vanpooling — Is It For You?

Details: A vanpool is a group of people who commute together on a regular basis in a leased van—saving riders money and time while reducing stress. It’s ideal for people who travel 15 miles or more to work.

Learn how to get a vanpool going, qualify for monthly subsidies of up to \$500, pay for fares while saving on income tax and more.

How to Join the Lunch and Learn

You don’t need to pre-register. Just [click on this link](#) at the start of the workshop to participate.

If you have questions, or to sign up for an email reminder about the Lunch and Learn, contact the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600,

rideshare@ocgov.com.

“My Commute”

Deanna Parsons rides the bus most days from Lake Forest to where she works at the Santa Ana Courthouse. Her commute takes about 45 minutes, which she says is no longer than it would take to drive.



“I take the bus in order to save on gas and save wear and tear on my car,” she says.

Instead of battling traffic, she’s able to use her commute time to relax or listen to audio books.

One of the main things Deanna appreciates about taking transit to work is that it’s so convenient. “It’s just one bus to get to work. I don’t have to do any transfers,” she says. “It’s very simple.”



Introducing...SoCal511.com

Now you can find resources for planning your commute at the recently expanded website [SoCal511.com](https://www.socal511.com) (formerly go511.com).

It’s a one-stop-shop for transportation help in Southern California. Access traffic maps and alerts, traffic cameras showing real-time road and freeway conditions, transit trip routing, Park & Ride lot maps, as well as information on biking, vanpooling, carpooling and more.



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How Are County and Superior Court Employees Getting to Work?

It turns out—even though more of you are returning to in-office work—you're not all driving alone to get here.

According to the most recent transportation survey, the top alternative to driving solo among County and Superior Court employees continues to be teleworking.

Flexible work schedules also helped keep cars off the road. During the survey week, more than 13,000 round-trip commutes were eliminated thanks to days off from people working flex schedules.

Carpooling increased 23% over the year prior. Bus ridership more than doubled.

A few other findings:

COMMUTERS SAVED (BASED ON ROUND TRIPS)

375,917
DOLLARS



637,148
MILES



25,588
GALLONS
OF GAS



498,447
LBS OF EMISSIONS
[VOC & NOx]



Work Begins on SR 55—Get Construction Alerts

Construction is now underway on four miles of SR-55, between I-405 and I-5 as part of a three-year improvement project.

Crews are demolishing a portion of the first of four bridges. The two outside lanes on northbound SR-55 will be closed, and detour signs will be in place to guide motorists around the closures.

For construction updates or to sign up for alerts, [visit the project website at octa.net](https://www.octa.net). You can also text 55FWYProject to 877.587.3065 to receive text notifications.



The Dodger Stadium Express Rolls Out March 30

Baseball fans can again get to games at Dodger Stadium without the hassle and expense of driving and parking with the **Dodger Stadium Express**.

Buses run from two locations: Union Station in downtown Los Angeles (accessible by Metrolink) and the South Bay Harbor Gateway Transit Center in Gardena.

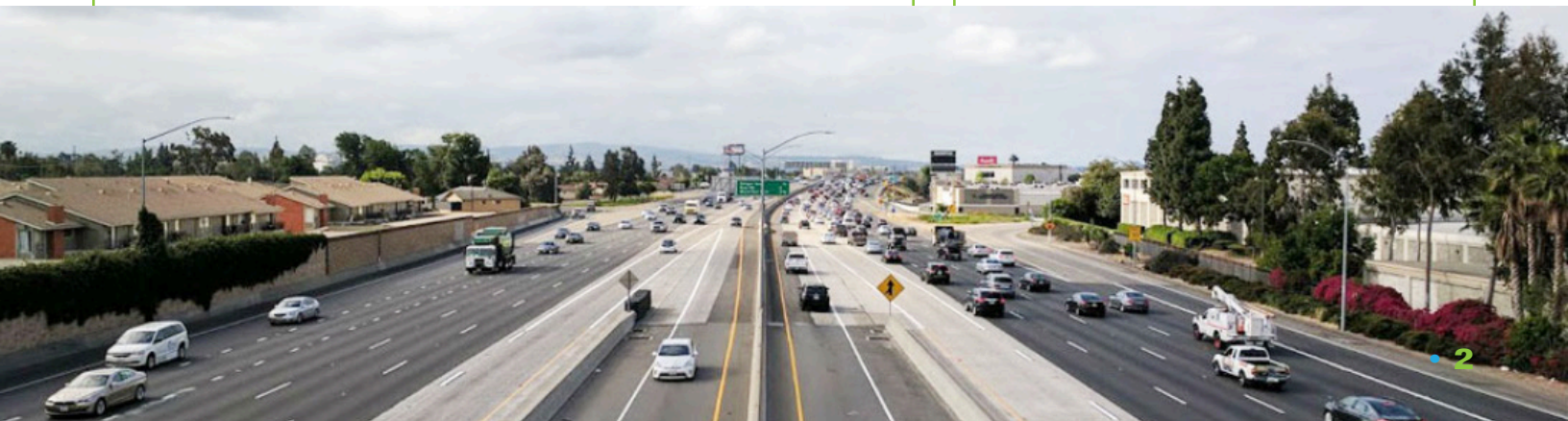
It's free to ride, though regular fares apply on all other connecting bus and rail services.

Students Save 25% on Metrolink Fares



This spring, students of any age are eligible for a 25% student discount. Simply select the student fare type when purchasing

your ticket at any Metrolink ticket machine or on the Metrolink Mobile App. A valid Student ID must be available upon fare inspection. Get details at metrolinktrains.com.





Earth Day Is April 22

Celebrate clean air efforts by ridesharing on Earth Day.

On average, you can prevent about a pound of pollutants for every mile you don't drive.

You can ride free all day on L.A. Metro Bus and Rail. Metrolink may also offer special Earth Day promotions—join them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to learn more.

Earth Day organizers offer a fun guide featuring [52 Ways to Invest in Our Planet](#)—from driving less to switching to a clean-fuel vehicle to buying less plastic and more.

You can also link to a [personal carbon footprint calculator](#)—see how those changes you make (like ridesharing) can add up.

Go to [earthday.org](#) to find out about virtual and in-person Earth Day events.



Free Guided Wilderness Hike

OCTA runs free docent-led hikes on the wilderness preserves it protects. The next hike is April 22, 9-11 a.m. at [the Pacific Horizon Preserve in Laguna Beach, octa.net](#).

Deals & Discounts



SoCal Explorer

Get Discounts and Earn Free Tickets with the Metrolink SoCal Explorer Loyalty Program

Earn points every time you ride Metrolink—whether you're a daily rider or only take the train on occasion. Points can be redeemed for future Metrolink tickets.

As a SoCal Explorer member you'll earn 1 point per mile weekdays. On weekends, you earn 50 points no matter where your trip takes you.

It's free to sign up. As a member, you'll also get access to discounts at restaurants, retailers and attractions across Southern California.

For details, and to see a list of participating merchants, visit [metrolinktrains.com](#).

Earn up to \$125 in Gift Cards When You Start Ridesharing

If you live in Riverside or San Bernardino counties, you may qualify to earn gift cards when you start ridesharing.

With the \$5/Day Incentive Program, you can earn \$5 a day in gift cards—up to \$125—for every day you carpool, vanpool or ride bus/rail to work in a three-month period. It's open to new ridesharers who have not yet participated in the program.

For details, visit [IECommuter.org](#).

Save Up to 75% on Fares When You Try Transit

Did you know...? The County's Try Transit program [reimburses you up to 75% of the cost of your OC Bus or Metrolink train pass for the first three months](#).

Give transit a try and you may qualify for 75% back on fares for the first month, 50% the second month and 25% the third month.

The incentive is open to new ridesharers only.

Call the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600 or email [rideshare@ocgov.com](#) for more information.



Get in Gear for Bike Month

May is Bike Month, with Bike to Work Day on Thursday May 18. Locally, transportation agencies—including the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and Metrolink—are gearing up to offer special events for bicyclists all month long.

Here, we offer some tips to get ready to participate in the big event:

- If it's been a while since you've rolled out your bike, consider taking it for a tune-up to make sure it's road ready.
- Visit OCTA online for tips [on bike safety](#) and to brush up on the rules of the road.
- Find a route. You can use the [OC Bikeways map](#) or an app such as [MapMyRide](#), which identifies routes with bikes lanes or fewer hills.
- Live too far from the office to bike the whole way? Metrolink allows you to bring your bike onboard. OC Bus (and most transit agencies) have front-end bike racks where you can stow your bike before you board.
- OCTA will feature Bike Month contests and information at [octa.net/bike](#) and on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). You can also look for Bike Month events at [metrolinktrains.com](#).



Thank a Bus Driver—Win a Bus Pass

National Transit Operator and Worker Appreciation Day is March 18. In honor of the occasion, OC Bus riders are asked to thank their coach operator and leave a positive comment online at [octa.net](#) for a chance to win a 30-Day OC Bus Pass.



Win Metrolink Tickets to Get to Swallows Day in San Juan Capistrano

Take a Metrolink Daycation to the Swallows Day Parade in San Juan Capistrano on March 25. Enter to win two round-trip Metrolink tickets at [octa.net/MetrolinkWeekends](#).

Regular Metrolink fare is \$10 for adults on weekends, and kids 17 and under ride free.



OC Bus Service Changes

OC Bus last month made schedule adjustments on dozens of bus routes to improve service and better meet riders' needs.

For the most current OC Bus routing information, call 714.636.RIDE or visit [February 12 eBusbook](#).



SUBSCRIBE



Sign Up for Next Stop for the Latest OC Bus News

Next Stop—a free monthly online newsletter for OC Bus riders—is packed with news about saving, discounts, great places to go and how to get the most out of your ride.

Sign up to have it delivered to your email inbox at [octa.net](#).



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