



# Club Rideshare

April 2023 Newsletter



## Get in on Earth Day Events

Earth Day is April 22, a day to address climate issues and ways ridesharing can contribute to cleaner air.

To celebrate, **Metrolink, OC Bus** and **LA Metro** will be offering free rides all day.

Throughout Southern California, organizations will be hosting virtual and in-person Earth Day events. Find an event near you at [earthday.org](https://earthday.org).

### Did You Know...?

County and Superior Court ridesharers and teleworkers are doing their share for clean air!

According to the recent transportation survey, in just one week you helped prevent nearly a half-million pounds of smog-causing emissions from being spewed into the air.

## Reminder: The Next Lunch and Learn Is April 19



Learn about vanpooling at a virtual "Lunch and Learn" workshop on April 19 at 12 Noon, presented by the Rideshare Office.

A vanpool is a group of people who commute together regularly in a leased van, splitting expenses. If you travel 15 miles or more to work, it can help you save money while reducing the stress of the drive.

Registration is not required. 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](mailto:rideshare@ocgov.com).

## Take the OC Bus Survey

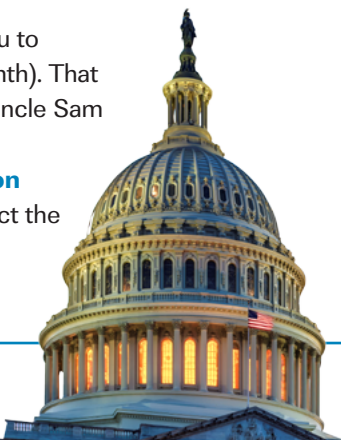
What would make your bus ride better? OC Bus wants to know! Take a few minutes to complete an online survey at [ocbus.com](https://ocbus.com) to help shape better bus routes and service in Orange County.

## Are You Paying Too Much in Income Taxes?

If you vanpool or ride transit to work, you could save on taxes by paying for fares through the Rideshare Office.

The County's Commuter Choice Program allows you to purchase fares using pre-tax dollars (up to \$300 a month). That lowers your overall taxable income, so you could pay Uncle Sam less at tax time.

Sign up using the **Payroll Deduction Authorization Form** to deduct fares from your paycheck. Or contact the Rideshare Office at [rideshare@ocgov.com](mailto:rideshare@ocgov.com) for more information.



## Micro Transit—a Tiny but Mighty Way to Go

For short, local trips—or if your bus or train doesn't quite take you all the way to your destination—micro transit might be a great option for you.

Micro transit offers curb-to-curb shared service in shuttle buses within certain zones. Riders call or use an app to book a ride, and fares are typically \$5 or less (depending on location).

It's similar to an Uber or Lyft, but more affordable (and with no surge pricing).



### Within Orange County...

**OC Flex** micro transit offers service in parts of **Aliso Viejo, Laguna Niguel and Mission Viejo**—including pick-ups and drop-offs at the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo Metrolink station.

Unlimited local rides all day are \$4.50 via the app or \$5 cash. Rides to and from the Metrolink station are free with a valid Metrolink pass.

OC Flex operates weekdays 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and weekends 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### If you're traveling to/from other areas of Southern California...

**In Los Angeles: Metro Micro** is shared, on-demand service serving zones that include portions of El Monte, Glendale, Pasadena, the San Fernando Valley and Westwood.

Introductory fares in some zones are just \$1.

**In Riverside County: GoMicro** covers portions of Hemet and San Jacinto. Fares are the same as local bus service at \$1.75 per ride.

**In San Bernardino County: OmniRide** serves zones in Chino/Chino Hills, Upland and Bloomington. Fares are \$4 per ride and include a day pass to Omnitrans bus service on day of travel.

**Micro-Link** serves zones in Victorville and Hesperia at a fare of \$4 per ride (which includes a free VVTA fixed route Day Pass for travel outside the zone area).

## Coming Soon...Bike Month

Don't forget to dust off that bike and gear up for Bike Month, coming in May.

Thursday, May 18 is Bike to Work Day. You don't have to ride all the way to work to participate. Just ride as far as your local transit station and stow your bike or bring it on board.

Look for event details in next month's Club Rideshare and at [octa.net/bike](https://octa.net/bike).



## "Why I Rideshare"

Pam Rainey rides the train daily from Riverside to where she works in Santa Ana for the Clerk of the Board. In the past, she's also commuted by carpool and vanpool—but she likes how the train lets her skip traffic on the 91 Freeway altogether.

"It's less stress," Pam says. Since her job entails a lot of decision making, she enjoys the freedom from having to make decisions on the drive as well.

"I also take the train because it's so cost-effective," she adds. "Especially with the pre-tax payroll deduction.\*"

\* The pre-tax payroll deduction allows employees to pay for transit fares using pre-tax dollars, thus lowering your overall taxable income.

## Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Claudia Gonzalez de Griesse, OCHCA
- Nervana Helmy, OCCOR
- Pam Rainey, CEO



## 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

