



OC Commuter

News for a better commute from the OC Rideshare Office



“My Commute”

Edgar Cisneros drives to work in an electric vehicle (EV)—from where he lives in Riverside to his job with the Probation Department in Santa Ana. The EV not only saves him money on gas, but he saves time, too.

“I have the decal so I can go in the carpool lane and also take advantage of the 91 FasTrak,” he says. “Plus, with an EV, you also don’t waste time at gas stations.”



When purchasing his EV, he was able to take advantage of incentive programs through the State of California, as well as the **\$100 bonus incentive** offered through the County Rideshare Office.



Metrolink \$15 Summer Day Pass

Metrolink is bringing back its \$15 Summer Day Pass, which provides unlimited rides on one weekday of travel throughout the Metrolink system.

Available exclusively via the Metrolink Mobile App,* the \$15 Summer Day Pass will be offered through Sept. 2. It’s a great

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3 New Things to Know About Life in the Fast Lane

Southern Californians have access to a vast network of carpool lanes and express toll lanes that are designed to save motorists time on the drive. A few things you should know before hopping into the fast lane:

1. Before entering carpool lanes, not only should you always check signage to make sure you have enough riders to qualify, but also check the road striping. In the past few years, Orange County changed from double yellow lines to double white lines to indicate where you *cannot* cross into the carpool lanes.

If you see a single solid white line, you can enter/exit the carpool lane, but only if it’s safe to do so. This striping is meant to discourage drivers from crossing where they’re located (and it’s actually illegal to do so in some states).

Stretches of carpool lane with dashed white lines are the preferred entry/exit points.

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...Life in the Fast Lane (Continued from page 1)

2. You may have heard that the **91 Express Lanes allow carpools of three or more people to ride free or at a discount**—and that’s true! It’s important to know, however, that you still must have a transponder in your vehicle. You must also ride in the designated 3+ occupant lanes.

Otherwise, you could face fines starting at \$25 plus tolls.

3. If you’re traveling to Los Angeles County, there’s a recent change to the toll policy on Metro ExpressLanes on the 10 and 110 Freeways.

In the past, if you entered the lanes without a valid FasTrak account, you’d get a violation notice of \$25 plus the posted toll. To allow people to use the lanes even if they don’t have an account, **Metro recently dropped the violation fee to \$4 plus the toll.**

Carpools can ride free or at a discount if they have FasTrak account. Visit metroexpresslanes.net for details.



...Summer Day Pass

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way to explore Southern California without the hassle and expense of driving and parking. It may also be a bargain option for your commute if the usual Metrolink round-trip fare is higher.

Metrolink will continue to offer its \$10 Weekend Day Pass.

Get details at metrolinktrains.com.

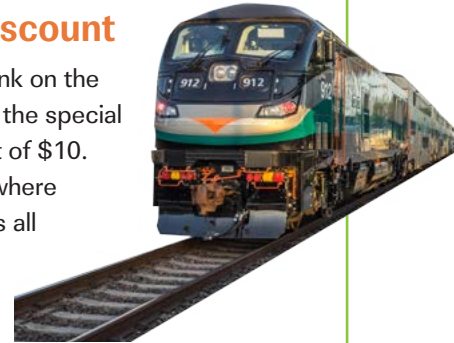
**The Summer Day Pass cannot be purchased through payroll deduction.*

July 4th Discount

Ride Metrolink on the Fourth of July at the special holiday discount of \$10.

You can go anywhere Metrolink travels all day long. The \$10 Holiday Pass can be purchased on

the Metrolink Mobile App or at Metrolink Ticket Machines found under “special ticket options.”



Lunch & Learn: All About the Money-Saving Perk Pass

The Rideshare Office is offering a series of virtual “Lunch and Learn” workshops where you can find out ways to improve your commute.

The next Lunch and Learn is June 21, 12 Noon to 1 p.m. Tune in to learn more about the annual OC Bus Perk Pass, a swipe-card that can be used on any local OCTA fixed-route bus and qualifies you for a lower per-ride rate.

You don’t need to pre-register to attend the Lunch and Learn. 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, contact the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600.



Enter to Win Two Metrolink Tickets and a \$100 Gift Card

Metrolink can help you get to work faster and with less stress than driving—and it’s also great for exploring all that Southern California has to offer.

Until June 30, you can enter to win two roundtrip Metrolink tickets to any Metrolink destination, plus a \$100 gift card, with Metrolink’s Spring Daycation Sweepstakes.

Visit metrolinktrains.com to find destinations you can reach by trains, plus discounts and deals, including the So Cal Explorer loyalty program





OC Green Expo June 10

Find out more about electric vehicles—and maybe even test drive one—at the OC Green Expo and EV Test Drive, June 10, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in downtown Anaheim.

The free, family-friendly event features interactive activities, booths with EV information, raffles and prizes.

For details, visit anaheim.net/greenexpo.

Free Summer Trolleys

Skip the drive and hop on free summer trolleys that take you to destinations around Orange County:

- **The San Clemente Trolley** operates daily until Oct. 1. The system is made up of two routes: a Downtown Red Line and a North San Clemente Blue Line.

- **The Laguna Niguel Trolley** will take riders “from the hill to the sea” all summer long, and at Stop #3 (in front of the Ritz-Carlton Resort), riders can connect with the free trolleys operated by Dana Point and Laguna Beach. The trolley runs Thursday through Sunday every 20 minutes until Sept. 5.

- **The Dana Point Trolley** runs daily through Sept. 5 with two loops that give riders access to coastal cities and allow them to easily transfer between other city-run trolleys.

- **The Balboa Peninsula Trolley** runs Saturdays and Sundays through Sept. 4, providing service around the peninsula. It also offers service on Independence Day and Labor Day.



Profile: OC Bus Route 453

If you work at the 500 S. Main Street building in Orange, OC Bus Route 453 might be a great option for you—especially if you ride Metrolink to work (or would like to).

Route 453 buses are timed to coordinate with Metrolink trains arriving in the morning and departing in the afternoon. One of the stops is just steps from the 500 S. Main Street building.

Metrolink riders transfer free to OC Bus with a valid Metrolink ticket stamped with the same day’s date.

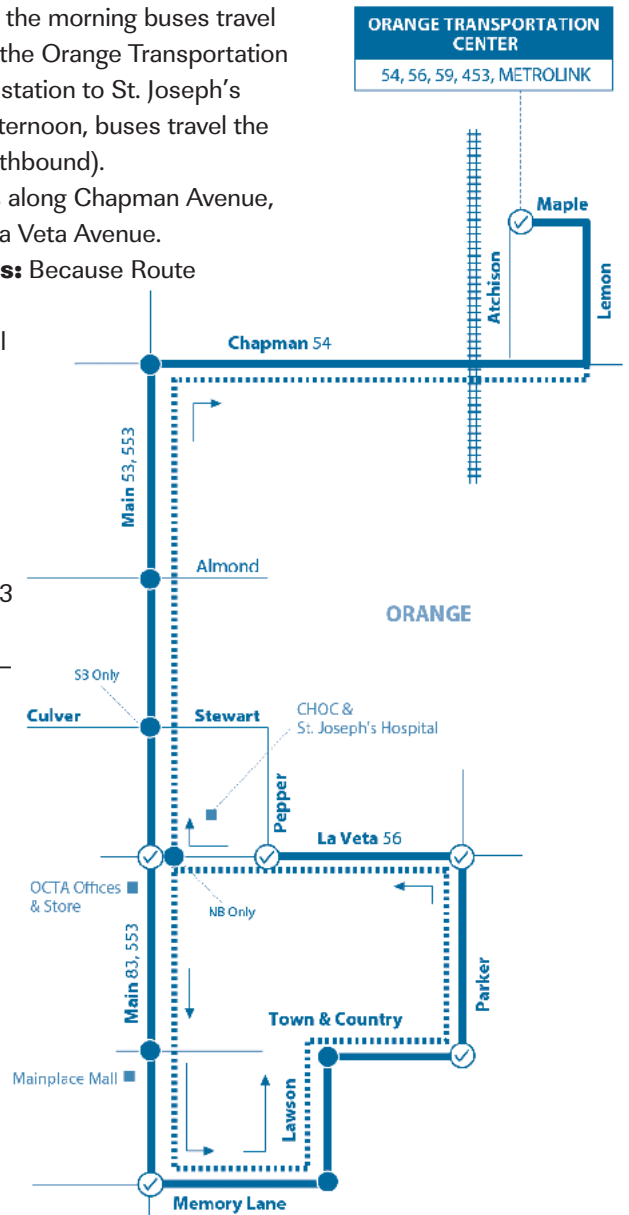
The route: In the morning buses travel southbound from the Orange Transportation Center/Metrolink station to St. Joseph’s Hospital. In the afternoon, buses travel the reverse route (northbound).

The route runs along Chapman Avenue, Main Street and La Veta Avenue.

Limited stops: Because Route 453 offers limited stop service, you’ll get where you’re going faster.

Schedule: It runs Monday through Friday, southbound approximately 5:43 – 9:07 a.m. and northbound 3:28 – 5:38 p.m.

Find out more at octa.net.





If You Missed the Vanpool Workshop...

If you couldn't join in the recent Lunch and Learn workshop—which was all about vanpooling—we want to make sure you still get to hear about this low-cost, low-stress way to commute.

Here's what you missed:

What's a Vanpool?

A vanpool is a group of people who commute together regularly in a leased van, splitting expenses. Some vanpools designate a person (or persons) who do the driving for a discount on fares. Others rotate driving duties among riders.

Vanpooling is a great option if you...

- Commute 15 or more miles each way.
- Work a consistent schedule.
- Can ride with the OC vanpool at least three to four days a week.

Save Big Over Driving Alone

Fares are a bargain over driving alone since riders split expenses.

OCTA also **offers a monthly subsidy to vanpools that covers roughly 25% of the cost of vanpooling.**

For further savings, you can pay vanpool fares using pre-tax dollars via payroll deduction, lowering your overall taxable income.

To Start Vanpooling...

• Contact the Rideshare Office or log onto ridematch.info to see if there's a vanpool with a seat available that will work for you.

• No current vanpool? You can get help to get one started. The Rideshare Office offers how-to advice and can identify potential riders.

You may even be able to qualify for a **\$300 vanpool start-up subsidy** through the County.

OCTA's Vanpool Program specialist also offers assistance in organizing a vanpool—from helping with how to lease a van to setting up the rules for the road. Get details at octa.net/vanpool or by calling 714.560.5331.

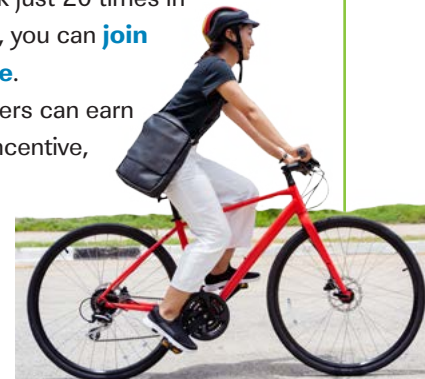
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Do You Qualify to Join Club Rideshare?

If you carpool, vanpool, take the train or bus, drive an EV/PHEV, bicycle or walk to work or telework just 20 times in a 90-day period, you can **join Club Rideshare.**

New members can earn a \$40 sign-up incentive, plus are eligible for monthly drawings for a \$25 bonus (paid via payroll), special perks and more.

Each year you renew, you get a \$15 bonus.

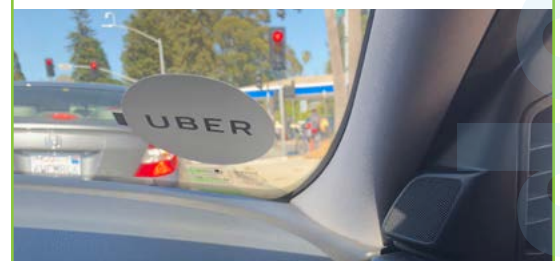


New Fiscal Year, New GRH Rides

County of Orange and Superior Court employees can be reimbursed for a ride if they need to get home due to an emergency on a day they got to work by ridesharing—up to two rides per fiscal year. Emergency ride options include rental car, taxi, Uber/Lyft, transit or approved car-sharing companies.

Since a new fiscal begins on July 1, if you've claimed the maximum number of rides home this fiscal year, your total number of rides will then reset to zero.

To find out more about the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program or to claim a reimbursement, **click here.**



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Email: rideshare@ocgov.com
Phone: 714.834.7600
Web: <https://hrs.ocgov.com/hr-resources/rideshare>

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