



Club Rideshare

December 2023 Newsletter



Carpool & Ride in New 405 Express Toll Lanes for Free!

The 405 Express Lanes—expected to open on Dec. 1—will allow motorists to get where they're going faster in traffic-free lanes for a toll.

Good news for carpoolers and vanpoolers: Vehicles with three or more people will be able to access these lanes for free.

Two-person carpools can travel on the lanes for free during non-peak hours.

Motorcycles and vehicles with designated veterans license plates or disabled person license plates can also use the lanes at no cost.

The 405 Express Lanes combine the previously existing carpool lane with a new lane in both directions in the center of the freeway between SR-73 in Costa Mesa and I-605 at border of Los Angeles County.

Solo drivers (and two-person carpools during peak hours) can pay a toll to use the time-saving lanes.

Tolls will vary by hour, day of the week, direction of travel and distance traveled.

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) recently announced that drivers on average will pay about \$3 to travel the

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Keep an Eye Out for Your 2024 Perk Pass

Important news for County and Superior Court employees who ride transit: Your new 2024 Perk Pass will be mailed to your home address during the first two weeks of December. Please keep an eye out for it to arrive after that time.

If you've moved in the last year, please contact the Rideshare Office immediately to ensure you receive your 2024 pass.

The new 2024 Perk Pass is valid from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2024. Anytime you ride the bus, tap your card and you'll receive the reduced fare of \$1.25 per swipe.



Alert: Metrolink Closure Dec. 26-29

Metrolink will have a **system-wide closure Dec. 26-29** for scheduled maintenance. No trains will operate on these days. Service will resume on Dec. 30.

Find alternate transportation options at ridematch.info, IECommuter.org or by contacting the Rideshare Office.

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Carpool & Ride... (continued from page 1)

entire 14 miles. The maximum toll rate will be \$9.95 from 3-5 p.m. on Fridays if traveling from SR-73 north to the county line.

All vehicles—including carpools—must have a valid account and a FasTrak transponder, set to the number of people in the vehicle.

For more information, visit 405expresslanes.com.

Start a Vanpool with Just 50% Occupancy

As a pilot program starting in 2021, OCTA dropped the minimum ridership to 50% to allow a vanpool to qualify for incentives—including \$400 monthly subsidies.

OCTA recently announced that it will keep the minimum at 50% permanently to make it easier to get vanpools on the road.

A vanpool is a group of people who rideshare regularly in a leased van, splitting expenses. It's ideal for people who commute 30 or more miles round trip daily.

Find out more about how to get a vanpool rolling at octa.net/vanpool. If you're thinking of starting a vanpool, the Rideshare Office can help you find coworkers in your area who might be interested in joining.

Holiday Free and Discount Rides

Ring in the holiday season without the hassle of driving—plus get a bargain.

- OC Bus will offer free rides on New Year's Eve. Look for details at octa.net.
- On Christmas and New Year's Day, Metrolink will run on its weekend schedule and price—so it's only **\$10 to travel all day**, anywhere Metrolink goes.

IRS Cap Up \$15

For the 2024 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 \$300 to \$315 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.



OC Bus Riders Get Free App Upgrade

OC Bus riders can now get a free upgrade to Transit Royale, the premium subscription of the Transit app.

Transit Royale uses real-time information to allow OC Bus riders to plan and track their trips, then view arrival and departure times.

Find out more and download the app at octa.net.

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:

- Eric C. Yu, Superior Court
- Sandra Lozano, Public Defender
- Lyndsay Hayes, OCIT



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.



Club Rideshare

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

The Rideshare Office Has Moved!
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