



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.



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](https://www.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.



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.



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



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Club Rideshare

February 2023 Newsletter



“Why I Rideshare”

When Dale Vermillion was looking for a house in Riverside, he specifically set out to find one near a Metrolink train station. “I wanted to avoid dealing with bumper-to-bumper traffic on the 91 every day,” he says, noting that to drive home would most likely take him hours.



Instead, his ride on the train to where he works in Santa Ana for the Department of Public Works only takes about 45 minutes.

“I’ve found it’s economical both for my gas budget and my work/life balance,” Dale says. “Riding the train is a real stress reliever.”

Another perk: He pays for Metrolink fares by having them automatically **deducted from his paycheck using pre-tax dollars**, lowering his overall taxable income.

“I love the train,” he adds. “I’ll never drive again if I don’t have to.”

OC Bus News

Check out Next Stop:

OC Bus’s new monthly Next Stop newsletter gives riders the latest about

(continued)



Join Us for the First “Lunch and Learn”

The County Rideshare Office will be hosting a series of fun, informative “Lunch and Learn” online sessions that will help you get the most out of your commute.

Mark your calendar to join us for the first Lunch and Learn on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 12 Noon. You’ll hear about the incentives the County offers to employees who choose alternatives to driving alone—from transit subsidies to EV rebates to monthly prize drawings and more. It’s a great opportunity to make sure you’re not missing out on benefits for which you may qualify!

Please also feel free to invite a fellow coworker who might like to learn about how they can get special benefits when they rideshare, too.

Each session takes place online via Teams and runs 30 minutes. It’s followed by a 30-minute Q & A so you can ask the Rideshare Office any questions you may have.

To join the Lunch and Learn, simply [click here](#) to be connected to the Teams link. (You don’t need to register in advance to participate.)

Questions? Call the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600 or email

rideshare@ocgov.com.



Ride Metrolink & More Free on Feb. 4

Feb. 4 is Transit Equity Day. In honor of Rosa Parks' birthday, it is a day that promotes making transit affordable and accessible to people in all communities.

Fares will be free on Feb. 4 on Metrolink trains throughout Southern California. All you have to do is simply arrive at the station and board the train (no ticket required) to ride Metrolink all day, anywhere it goes.

In addition, **people in San Bernardino County can board their local bus for free** for the day. This includes Omnitrans, Morongo Basin Transit Authority (MBTA), Mountain Transit, Needles Area Transit (NAT)/Dial-a-Ride, and Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA).



OC Bus... (continued from page 1)

discounts, great places to go, how to get the most of your ride and more.

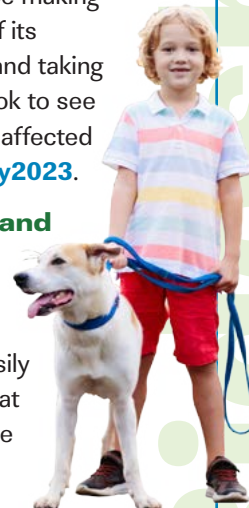
Check it out at octa.net, then subscribe to get it delivered to your email inbox.

February service changes:

OC Bus this month will be making adjustments to several of its routes—rerouting some and taking others out of service. Look to see if your usual bus route is affected at ocbus.com/February2023.

Kids' Pet Parade and Expo sweepstakes:

Enter to win Metrolink tickets to get to this family-friendly event—easily reachable by Metrolink—at octa.net/metrolink. The **Kids' Pet Parade and Expo** is Feb. 18 in San Juan Capistrano.



Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Pamela Niemi-Cering, OCCR
- Dale Vermillion, OCPW
- Deanna Parsons, 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.



Don't Forget to Renew Your Club Rideshare Membership

Have you reviewed your Club Rideshare membership yet for 2023?

The Rideshare Office sent emails last month to all current Club Rideshare members to remind you to renew your participation. To thank you for filling out the brief form, you'll get a \$15 bonus in your paycheck.

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.

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.

You must renew your membership to continue to qualify for membership benefits, such as the \$25 monthly prize drawings.

TIME TO RENEW

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.



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March 2023 Newsletter



SoCal511.com—Your One Stop Shop for Commute Help

511 is the official nationwide number for travel information. Here in Southern California, you can call 511 for assistance 24/7—and you can also find help at the recently expanded website [SoCal511.com](https://www.socal511.com) (formerly go511.com).

You can access the following tools and services:

- See traffic maps and alerts
- View traffic cameras for real-time road and freeway conditions
- Plan a trip using transit
- Get information on biking, vanpool, carpooling, Park & Rides and more.

SoCal511 features transportation information for Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties.

Find Out if Vanpooling Is for You at a Virtual “Lunch and Learn”

The Rideshare Office is offering a series of “Lunch and Learn” workshops where you can find out about rideshare options, deals, discounts and ways to make your commute better.

The workshops run 30 minutes and are conducted online via Teams, followed by a 30-minute Q&A session.

The next Lunch and Learn is April 19 at 12 Noon, and it’s all about vanpooling.

A vanpool is a “super carpool” of people who commute together on a regular basis in a leased van, splitting expenses. It’s ideal if you travel

(continued)

“My Commute”

When Pamela Niemi makes her 15-minute daily commute from Tustin to the Civic Center in Santa Ana, she gets to drive right past the gas pumps. That’s because five years ago she switched over to a fully electric vehicle.



“Driving an electric vehicle, I have saved a ton of money because it’s so much less expensive than using gas, particularly lately,” she says.

While cost savings may have been the impetus to go electric, it has had other benefits as well—including access to carpool lanes for the first couple years she had it. “I get to save money, help keep the environment clean,” she says. “Plus, it’s just a nice ride.”

Arrow Fares Just \$1

For a limited time, fares to ride San Bernardino’s Arrow are just \$1.

Arrow trains run nine miles between University of Redlands and Metrolink’s San Bernardino-Downtown Station—with daily connections to and from Metrolink’s San Bernardino and Inland Empire-Orange County lines.

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





Find Out if... (continued from page 1)

15 or more miles to work and have a fairly consistent schedule. You'll save on gas and auto wear and tear and reduce the stress of commuting.

At this workshop, 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 & 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 & Learn, contact the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600, rideshare@ocgov.com.

Did Your OC Bus Route Change?

OC Bus last month changed some routes to improve frequency, service quality and reliability.

Some buses have been rerouted, and others have been extended to connect with transit hubs.

To view the changes, click [here](#).



Anaheim Canyon Metrolink Station Is Looking Good!



Metrolink recently unveiled the new and improved Anaheim Canyon station. One of the changes was to add a second track of about 3,400 feet, allowing more than one train at a time to stop at or pass through the station.

Located just north of SR-91 near La Palma and Tustin avenues, the Anaheim Canyon station is part of the Inland Empire-Orange County

line, with more than 36 trains traveling through the area daily.

Get Tips for E-Bike Safety from OCTA

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) offers a series of short, fun videos with e-bike safety tips, including rules of the road and how to properly fit a bike helmet.

You can also find a bikeways map, e-bike regulations for trails, and more at octa.net/bike/e-bikes.



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.



Join OCTA on a Free Wilderness Hike

OCTA holds monthly docent-led hikes through protected wilderness preserves in the county. The hikes are free, although space is limited, and registration is required.

The next hike is April 22, 9-11 a.m. at the **Pacific Horizon Preserve in Laguna Beach**.

For the full list of hikes scheduled for 2023, [view the OCTA Events Calendar here](#).

Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Amber Gomez, SSA
- Karen Simerlink, OCHCA
- Michael Farole, SSA



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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.

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.

Take the OC Bus Survey

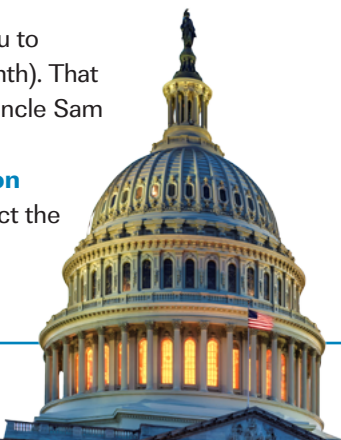
What would make your bus ride better? OC Bus wants to know! Take a few minutes to complete an online survey at ocbus.com to help shape better bus routes and service in Orange County.

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 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.



"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 Griese, OCHCA
- Nervana Helmy, OCCR
- 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.



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May 2023 Newsletter



Get in Gear—It's Bike Month

May is National Bike Month! There's plenty in store to inspire you to get into two-wheeled travel—whether to work, to your nearby transit stop, or wherever you want to go.

Here's what's happening...

In Orange County

Win Prizes: Pledge to ride your bike in May for a chance to win one of two great prizes from Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA):

- Trek Verve 1 Disc Lowstep Bike
- Bontrager Ion Elite Front Bike Light

Cyclists that participate in four fun challenges and join the **OCTA Strava Club** can earn up to five entries in the prize drawing.

OCTA Bike Rally and Ride: Meet up with other cyclists on Bike to Work Day, May 18, 7:30 – 9 a.m. at the Orange Metrolink Station for a **bike rally** with prizes, giveaways, speakers and snacks. Then enjoy a group ride to OCTA headquarters on Main Street.

Contact: Get details at octa.net/BikeMonth, as well as on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

Throughout Southern California

Cyclists can ride Metrolink for free during Bike to Work Week, May 15-19, when they bring their bike on board. Bikes are allowed on all trains, and Metrolink also features special **Bike Cars** designed to accommodate more bikes.

Look for more Metrolink Bike Month news—including information on bike trails accessible via the train—on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.



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.

Now you can enter to win two roundtrip Metrolink tickets to any Metrolink destination, plus a \$100 gift card, with **Metrolink's Spring Daycation Sweepstakes**.

The sweepstakes ends June 30, and one winner will be selected at the end of each month.

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



Save the Date for the Next Lunch and Learn

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,

(continued)





Metrolink Brings Back the \$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 May 31 through Sept. 2. Metrolink will continue to offer its \$10 Weekend Day Pass. Get details at metrolinktrains.com.

*The \$15 Day Pass is not available for purchase through payroll deduction.

Pacific Surfliner Back on Track

All regular Metrolink and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner train service resumed last month through south Orange County.

Service had been suspended between Irvine and Oceanside to allow emergency construction work to stop slope movement and stabilize the tracks in south San Clemente.

For the latest updates, visit metrolinktrains.com and pacificsurfliner.com/alerts.

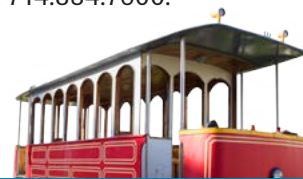


Save the Date... (continued from page 1)

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.



Free Trolleys for Summer Fun

Summer means the return of free trolleys that shuttle riders to beaches, restaurants and local attractions.

Among the trolleys soon to start their summer run are the **Dana Point Trolley**, **Laguna Niguel Summer Trolley** and **San Clemente Trolley**.

Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Jocelyn Gaspar, HCA
- Kimberly Hostler, ROV
- Jonathan Johns, OCPW



A Faster, Easier OCTA Online Experience

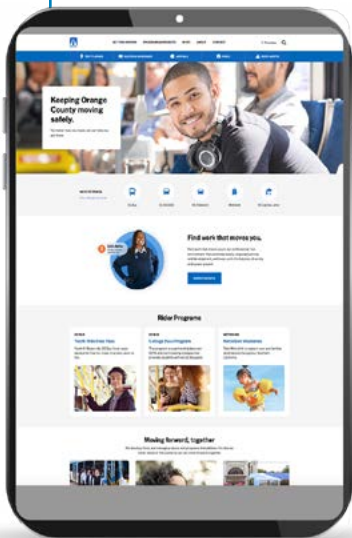
OCTA recently redesigned its website. The simple, streamlined navigation lets you easily find your way around, whether you're checking schedules, planning trips or exploring services.

Check it out at octa.net. While you're there, sign up to receive OCTA's **NextStop newsletter** via email that features the latest news for OC Bus riders.



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June 2023 Newsletter



Photo courtesy of OCTA.

Want to Turn Your Carpool into a Vanpool?

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) refers to vanpooling as a “super carpool”—so if you’d like to supersize your carpool, the Rideshare Office can help.

In a vanpool, riders regularly commute together in a leased van, splitting expenses. Vanpoolers enjoy the same benefits as carpooling, including access to time-saving carpool lanes and riding free or at a discount on the 91 Express Lanes.

OCTA offers a monthly subsidy that reduces fares on average 25%. Vanpools with as few as five riders can qualify.

The County also offers a \$300 start-up incentive for new vanpools.

Contact the Rideshare Office to learn more about how to start a vanpool, find riders, and sign up for incentives.

OC Bus Launches Express Service on Beach Boulevard

Introducing...**Bravo! 529, new, faster OC Bus service from Fullerton to Huntington Beach**, traveling through Westminster (and making a stop at the West Justice Center).

Bravo! Route 529 runs along Beach Boulevard and connects to the Fullerton Park & Ride, the Goldenwest Transportation Center in Huntington Beach, and 12 major bus routes throughout Orange County.

(continued)

Thinking of Buying or Leasing an Electric Vehicle (EV)?

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.

If you take the plunge into buying or leasing an EV, you may qualify for a **\$100 bonus incentive** from the County.



Does OC Air Make the Grade?

Unfortunately...no. Orange County has among the worst air quality in the nation, earning a failing grade from the American Lung Association (ALA).

The ALA annually ranks counties across the U.S. in its *State of the Air* report. For 23 out of the past 24 years, the Southern California region has held the #1 spot in air pollution. That’s the bad news.

The good news: It could be worse! Ridesharers like you help reduce smog by choosing an alternative to driving alone. That makes a big difference, since motor vehicles are the #1 contributor to emissions that cause smog.



OC Bus Launches Express Service... (continued from page 1)

It follows the same route as OC Bus Route 29, with fewer stops (13 vs. 34). That saves riders up to 10 minutes per ride.

Service runs weekdays 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. every 12 minutes during peak hours. (Buses run every 18 minutes the rest of the day).

Lunch & Learn: Save Money with the Perk Pass

If you ride transit, be sure to join the Rideshare Office's upcoming virtual "Lunch and Learn" on June 21 at noon. You'll learn all 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.

If you're *not* paying for transit with a Perk Pass, you're probably paying too much in fares.

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.



Metrolink Service Restored in South Orange County

Metrolink trains recently resumed travel to and from the Oceanside Station

on the Orange County and Inland Empire-Orange County lines. Tracks in the area had previously been closed due to falling debris in San Clemente.

Amtrak Pacific Surfliner also resumed service.

Other Service Updates:

On May 22, Metrolink updated its schedule, which is available digitally only. Printed timetables will resume in July.

See the most recent schedule [here](#).



Good News for OC Bus Route 43 and 543 Riders

Faster travel times may soon be on the way! OCTA received a federal funding grant for a project that focuses on improving travel times on OC Bus Route 43 and Bravo! Route 543.

The project will test using a cloud-based transit signal priority system along Harbor Boulevard.

Harbor Boulevard is one of OCTA's busiest routes, with an average daily ridership of roughly 10,000 passengers.

Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Jocelyn Gaspar, HCA
- Kimberly Hostler, ROV
- Jonathan Johns, OCPW



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!
OC Rideshare Program Office
County of Orange
Human Resource Services
601 N. Ross St., 2nd Floor, Santa Ana





Club Rideshare

July 2023 Newsletter



New Fiscal Year, New Chances to Get a Ride Home if You Need One

Did you know...?

You can be reimbursed for a ride on a day you rideshare if you need to get home due to a personal emergency or you miss your ride due to unexpected overtime.

As of July 1, it's new fiscal year. That means that if you claimed the maximum number of Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) rides last year, you get a clean slate.

County of Orange and Superior Court employees can be reimbursed for up to two GRH rides each fiscal year. GRH rides home can be via taxi, Uber/Lyft, car rental, car-sharing, Metrolink or bus.

How to Qualify for Reimbursement

You qualify if you got to work that day by carpooling, vanpooling, riding the bus or train, biking or walking and need a ride for any of the following reasons:

- Personal or family illness or emergency
- Your carpool/vanpool driver has to leave due to illness or personal emergency
- You or your carpool/vanpool driver have to work unexpected overtime

You don't need to get authorization before arranging your GRH ride. Just fill out a **GRH reimbursement form** and submit it along with your trip receipt to the Rideshare Office. (Please refer to the GRH form for submittal deadlines.) If you're not sure if your emergency qualifies, call the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600.

Take a Metrolink Daycation & Save

Metrolink is not only a great way to get to work, but it also serves some of

Southern California's favorite summertime destinations.

A day pass on Saturdays and Sundays is always \$10. Kids 17 and younger ride free on weekends when accompanied by a fare-paying adult.

(continued)

Getting Help If Your Commute Changes

If you move, your work schedule changes, or your usual rideshare arrangement isn't available, you don't have to revert to the expense and stress of driving alone to work.

The Rideshare Office can provide you with an updated list of options, including potential carpool partners, transit routing and more.

You can also find commute help 24/7 by logging in at ridematch.info.

Join OCTA on a Hike

OCTA offers free, guided hikes on some of Orange County's preserves that are permanently protected.

The next hike is Aug. 12, 9-11 a.m. at the Pacific Horizon Preserve. Space is limited, and advanced registration is required.

To sign up, and to see the 2023 calendar of hikes (as well as horse riding excursions) visit octa.net.

You can also get a **map of hiking and biking trails** open to the public, as well as safety tips and resources.





Photo courtesy of Metrolink.

Take a Metrolink Daycation & Save... *(continued from page 1)*

This summer, Metrolink is offering a \$15 weekday day pass, good for travel all day anywhere Metrolink goes.

Earn Rewards When You Ride

Sign up for Metrolink's So Cal Explorer program and every time you ride, you'll earn points toward future travel. It's easy, and it's free.

Members earn one point per mile. During weekend adventures, you earn 50 points no matter where your trip takes you.

Avoid Construction Traffic on the I-405

If you drive the 16-mile stretch of I-405 between SR-73 and I-605, you might be wondering if construction there is ever going to end.

The good news: The answer is yes! The project is set to wrap at the end of this year. When complete, it will include two lanes of express toll lanes in both directions, easing traffic congestion on all lanes.

Carpools of three or more people will be able to ride in the time-saving express lanes toll free.

To ease your commute in the meantime, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) offers construction updates.

At 405expresslanes.com, you can:

- View construction updates and alerts.
- Sign up for notifications and alerts via email, text or automated call system.

You can also follow the I-405 Improvement Project on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for construction updates and announcements.



Club Rideshare

How Is Today's Air Quality?

Southern California is famous for its smog. Between vehicle emissions, wildfires and other pollutants, the air quality here can sometimes hit unhealthy or dangerous levels.

Now you can check the current air quality conditions at airnow.gov.

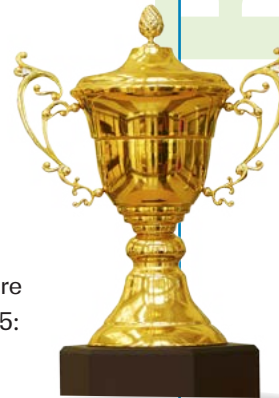
Just plug in the zip code, and you'll get a rating from "good" to "hazardous," along with other data.



Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Scott Price, HCA
- Cynthia Richter, SSA
- Jeanne Sims, CSS



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!
OC Rideshare Program Office
County of Orange
Human Resource Services
400 W. Civic Center Dr., 3rd Floor
Santa Ana, CA 92701





Club Rideshare

August 2023 Newsletter



Tune in to the Next Lunch and Learn

The Rideshare Office hosts virtual Lunch and Learn workshops every other month so employees can learn about the many commute benefits available through the County.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming Lunch and Learn on Tuesday, August 22 from 12 to 1 p.m.

The workshop will discuss the benefits of completing the annual rideshare and air quality survey when it's distributed. You'll learn how to get a free RideGuide commute planner and find out about prizes and incentives for participating.

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—call the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600 or email rideshare@ocgov.com.

The Rideshare Office Has Moved

The Rideshare Office has relocated to the County Administrative North (CAN) building in Santa Ana, on the third floor.

Stop by if you need help finding commute options such as a carpool partner, a new transit route or have any questions about rideshare benefits the County offers. *(continued)*

Win Two Metrolink Tickets to Get to the Festival of Butterflies

The annual **Festival of Butterflies** is Aug. 5 in the Los Rios District of San Juan Capistrano. The family-friendly event is free and will feature garden tours with butterflies and butterfly educators, exhibitors, children's activities, music and more.

Skip traffic and parking hassles by riding Metrolink to get there. It's just a five-minute walk from the San Juan Capistrano train station.

Metrolink is only \$10 to ride all day on Saturday. Kids 17 and under ride free with a paying adult.

Plus, you can [enter for a chance to win two free Metrolink tickets](#) and save even more.



Metrolink Update: Service Resumes in South Orange County

In case you missed the big news...

Service along Metrolink's Orange County Line and Inland Empire-Orange County Line has been fully restored. Following a June 5 track closure, a temporary barrier

wall has been constructed to protect

(continued)



The Rideshare Office... (continued from page 1)

Meet the newest member of the Rideshare Office team: Thomas McCaughey, rideshare program consultant.

He can answer your questions about ridesharing as well as provide carpool/vanpool matching and transit or bike routing. He also helps organize the bi-monthly "Lunch and Learn" workshops, where employees can learn about special benefits offered to ridesharers through the County.

Thomas joins the current Rideshare Office team of Denise Van Stratten, Rideshare Program Consultant, and HRS Employee Benefits.

Thomas can be reached at rideshare@ocgov.com or 714.834.7600.



Metrolink Update...

(continued from page 1)

the tracks and passing trains from debris falling from the hillside above.

Find out more, including current train schedules, at metrolinktrains.com or by calling 1.800.371.5465.



Ride OC Bus to the Fair

Although the OC Fair Express has been discontinued, you can still easily and affordably get to the Orange County Fair on OC Bus.

Four OC Bus routes provide service to the fairgrounds: 47, 55, 71 and 178.

The fair runs through Aug. 13. Find out more at ocbus.com.



Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Trevor Woomer, SSA
- Sylvia Udaya, HCA
- Kyra Smith, SSA

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.



Do You Live in the Inland Empire?

If you commute from Riverside or San Bernardino counties and recently started ridesharing, you may be eligible to earn \$5/Day in gift cards for every day you share the ride for the first three months.

Inland Empire commuters may also be entered into a "spotlight" prize drawing each month for \$100 gift cards.

Find out more at IECommuter.org.



Save 50% on OC Flex Rides

Until Aug. 31, group rides on **OC Flex on-demand** shuttles are half price. Two people can ride for \$4.50 all day, three for \$6.75 and four for \$9.

OC Flex is daily, shared-ride service covering zones in Aliso Viejo, Laguna Niguel and Mission Viejo.

To get the discount, the ride must be booked via the mobile app and riders must board together.

In addition, all day on the day of purchase, OC Flex and OC Bus regular 1-day or 30-day passes are interchangeable. You can use either pass on either service.

With a valid Metrolink or Amtrak pass, you can ride to or from a train station within the zone for free on OC Flex.



Club Rideshare

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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
400 W. Civic Center Dr., 3rd Floor
Santa Ana, CA 92701





Club Rideshare

September 2023 Newsletter



Carpools to Ride Free in 405 Express Lanes



Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) recently announced that, when the I-405 Express Lanes open later this year, **carpools with three or more people in the vehicle will be able to ride free at all times.**

Vehicles with two people will be able to travel on the lanes for free during non-peak hours.

Other motorists can access the express lanes for a toll.

I-405 Express Lanes are located between SR-73 in Costa Mesa and I-605 at the Orange County Line.

All vehicles using the lanes must have a FasTrak transponder, regardless of the number of riders.

Thinking About Switching to Electric?

National Drive Electric Week is Sept. 22-Oct. 1. Find events and networking opportunities (many are online) to learn

(continued)



Remember: Turn in Your Transportation Survey by Sept. 8

Don't forget to complete your annual transportation survey by the Friday, Sept. 8 deadline.

When you do, you'll be entered into a drawing to win one of 10 \$100 Amazon gift cards as a thank you for your participation.

The annual transportation survey collects information on how you commuted the week of Aug. 7-11. Completing the survey is mandatory for all County of Orange and Superior Court employees—whether you rideshare, drive in to the office, telework or work a hybrid schedule.

You should have received the survey via email, or you can download it [here](#). The Rideshare Office also offers a [helpful video on how to fill in the survey](#).

3 Reasons to Say "Yes" to a RideGuide

When you fill out the survey, you have the option to receive a free RideGuide commute planner—which you can get by checking "yes" to the last question in the survey.

A RideGuide gives you all your commute options based on where you live and work and your work schedule. Even if you currently have a rideshare arrangement, it's still a good idea to check yes. Here's why:

1. You'll get a list of potential carpool partners in case your current carpool situation falls through. You'll also get a list of vanpools that may have a seat available.

(continued)



3 Reasons to Say... (continued from page 1)

2. Transit options change all the time, especially post-pandemic as agencies continue to restore service that had been reduced. The RideGuide will give you the most up-to-date schedules.
3. You don't have to use it, but it'll be there if you need it.

Rideshare & Win

Rideshare Week is Oct. 2-6, celebrating carpooling, vanpooling, riding transit, walking and biking as alternatives to driving alone.

Here's what's happening:

Orange County

Rideshare at least one day during Rideshare Week and you'll have a chance to **win great prizes**.

Riverside/San Bernardino Counties

If you live in the Inland Empire, throughout the entire month of October, when you sign up and log your rideshare activity on **IECommuter.org**, you'll qualify to win any of dozens of prizes. If you're new to ridesharing, you may also be eligible for IE Commuter's **\$5/Day program** to earn additional rewards.



Weigh in on OC Transportation Needs

What's needed in Orange County to make it easier for people to choose alternatives to driving alone? OCTA wants to hear from you!

Fill out a brief survey by Sept. 18 to give your input. Results will help shape options as OCTA updates its transportation plan.

Find out more at octa.net/TDM.

Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Monica M Souter, Auditor Controller
- Jeffery D Vu, HCA
- Austin C Raslowsky, OCSD



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.



Better Carpool/Vanpool Matches for Employees Who Live in the IE

If you live in Riverside or San Bernardino counties and are interested in finding potential carpool or vanpool matches, here's some good news:

On Sept. 26, the rideshare databases for **RideMatch.info** and **IECommuter.org** will merge data. That means you can go to either site to get the best carpool/vanpool matches across all Southern California counties.

Previously, you would have been limited to those only from Los Angeles/Orange/Ventura counties or those from Riverside/San Bernardino.

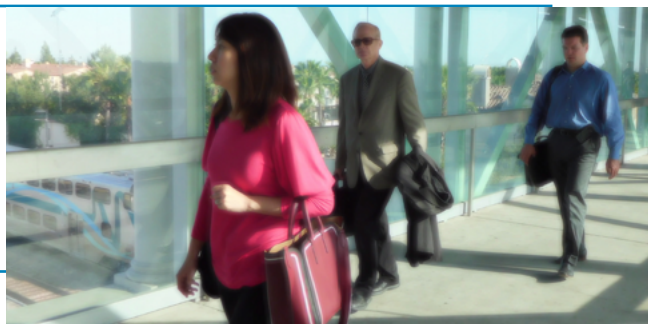
Simply log on to either site, and enter basic information about your commute. You'll get an instant list of potential carpool partners and vanpools based on your home and work locations and work hours.



Club Rideshare

Email: 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
 400 W. Civic Center Dr., 3rd Floor
 Santa Ana, CA 92701





Club Rideshare

October 2023 Newsletter



Your RideGuide Is Coming Soon!

If you checked “yes” to receive a RideGuide when you filled out the annual transportation survey, you should be receiving it soon via email.



The RideGuide gives you potential carpool/vanpool partners, transit routes, Park & Ride lots and more based on where you live and work and your work schedule.

If you didn't ask for a RideGuide but would like one, contact the Rideshare Office.

You can also learn about ways to get customized commute information at the upcoming Lunch and Learn on Oct. 12. (See story on pg. 2.)

Want to Bike to the Bus Stop?

Good news: All OC Bus vehicles can accommodate up to three bikes. This includes e-bikes, as long as they fit the same profile as a regular bike.

Your bike must fit securely on the bike rack and weigh 55 pounds or less.

(continued)



Rideshare & Win During Rideshare Week

Rideshare Week is Oct. 2-6, and it's your chance to drive less and save more! With the price of gas hitting all-time highs, ridesharing is a great way to bypass the gas pump—plus save time and reduce stress.

Here's what's happening...

Rideshare or telework at least one day during Rideshare Week, then make the pledge at octa.net/RideshareWeek to be entered into a drawing for an Apple AirPods Pro.

If you live in Riverside or San Bernardino counties, sign up and log your rideshare activity all month long on IECommuter.org. You'll qualify to win prizes including an iPad mini, Apple Watch, Trek FX1 bike or gift cards to local retailers and more.

Ride Free on Clean Air Day

California Clean Air Day is Wednesday, Oct. 4, and there's plenty in store to help people join in the clean air effort.

Motor vehicles are the top contributors of emissions that cause smog in Southern California, so choosing an alternative

(continued)



Club Rideshare



Ride Free on...
(continued from page 1)
to driving alone helps reduce air pollution.

MetroLink is offering free rides throughout its system all day on Clean Air Day. Rides will also be free on **OC Bus, Metro bus and rail** and all San Bernardino County and Ventura County transit providers.

Pledge to make any

of dozens of little changes—like planting a tree or walking to lunch instead of driving—that can also make a difference.

For information about free Clean Air Day events near you and online, visit cleanairday.org.

The Next Lunch and Learn Is Oct. 12

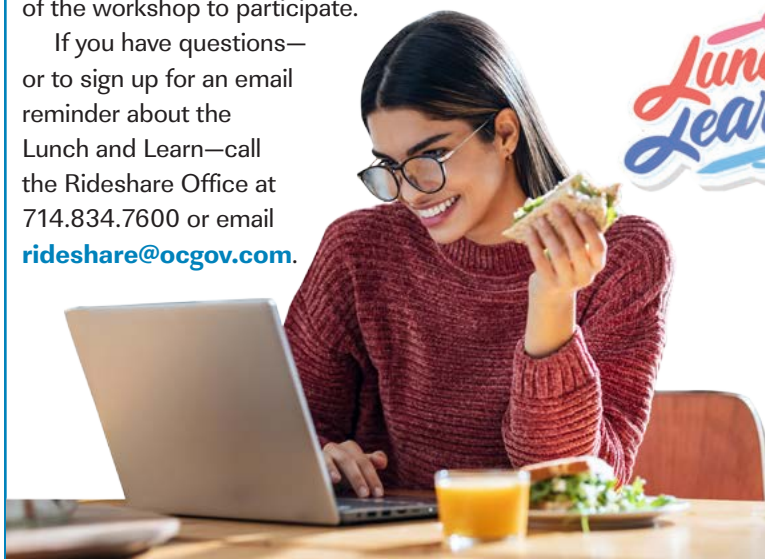
Find out how to get customized commute information at the upcoming Lunch and Learn workshop on Oct. 12, 12-1 p.m.

The workshop will demonstrate the many features of Southern California's rideshare resource, Ridematch.info. Find potential carpool partners, available vanpools, transit routing and more—all at your fingertips 24/7.

The Rideshare Office hosts virtual Lunch and Learn workshops every other month so employees can learn about the many commute benefits available through the County.

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—call the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600 or email rideshare@ocgov.com.



Want to Bike... *(continued from page 1)*

Bikes/e-bikes are not permitted inside the bus unless they are foldable or you are boarding on the last bus trip of the day.

Orange County Transportation Authority offers tips for safely loading and unloading bikes, as well as details on specifications at octa.net.

Free Fridays on RTA

Now you can ride Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) buses for free on Fridays. This includes all local, CommuterLink and CoMicro buses through June 2024.

To board at no cost, you'll need a Free Ride Friday pass, available via the [GoMobile app](#) at riversidetransit.com.



Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Roque Rios, DA
- Christina Salama, HCA
- Jeanne Sims, CCS



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

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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
400 W. Civic Center Dr., 3rd Floor
Santa Ana, CA 92701





Club Rideshare

November 2023 Newsletter



Get in the Spirit of the Season

Metrolink’s beloved Holiday Express trains will soon be rolling again!

These festively decorated trains will bring holiday fun for the whole family to Metrolink stations throughout Southern California Nov. 25-Dec. 16.

Holiday Express events feature carolers, treats and children’s activities—plus a visit from Santa.

Trains will also be collecting donations of new, unwrapped toys and socks for those in need.

For a schedule of appearances, visit metrolinktrains.com.



“Why I Rideshare”

During the pandemic, Roque Rios started biking the three miles to get to his job at the District Attorney’s office. He enjoyed being able to get in a morning bike ride—plus his boss allows him to stow his bike safely inside in an empty cubicle.

Roque has since switched to carpooling most days with his wife, Marybel, who now works for the County as well.

“We were able to sell one of the cars,” he says. “There’s no need to waste double the maintenance and double the gas since we’re both coming to the same place.”

Because they’re a one-car family, the option to bike to work still comes in handy on the days they’d otherwise need to drive in separately.



Save the Date: Lunch and Learn

The Rideshare Office hosts virtual Lunch and Learn workshops every other month so employees can learn about various rideshare options.

The next Lunch and Learn is Nov. 15 from 12 to 1 p.m. It’s all about Metrolink: how to ride, special discount fares, employee incentives, tax breaks and more.

Registration is not required. Just [click on this link](#) at the start of the workshop to participate.

Students Ride Free

On Metrolink...

For a limited time, Metrolink is offering a **Student Adventure Pass**. The pass allows any student with valid school identification to ride anywhere on the Metrolink system for free. K-12, technical school, colleges, and university students are eligible.

Students can get their Student Adventure Pass on the Metrolink mobile app.

(continued)



(continued)



Students Ride Free... *(continued from page 1)*

On ticket machines, they can get a paper ticket using the *Student/Youth* ticket type when selecting a ride ticket or 7-Day or Monthly Pass.

Students will need to present a valid ticket and student ID when riding the train.

The pass program launched Oct. 9 and is available for six months or until funds are depleted.

On OC Bus...

Youth Free Ride passes are available from any participating Orange County school. The pass is for youth ages 6 to 18 and allows them to ride OC Bus at no cost.

For information on how to get a Youth Free Ride Pass for the current school year, visit octa.net/passes.

Save the... *(continued from page 1)*



If you have questions—or to sign up for an email reminder about the Lunch and Learn—call the Rideshare Office at 714.834.7600 or email rideshare@ocgov.com.

Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

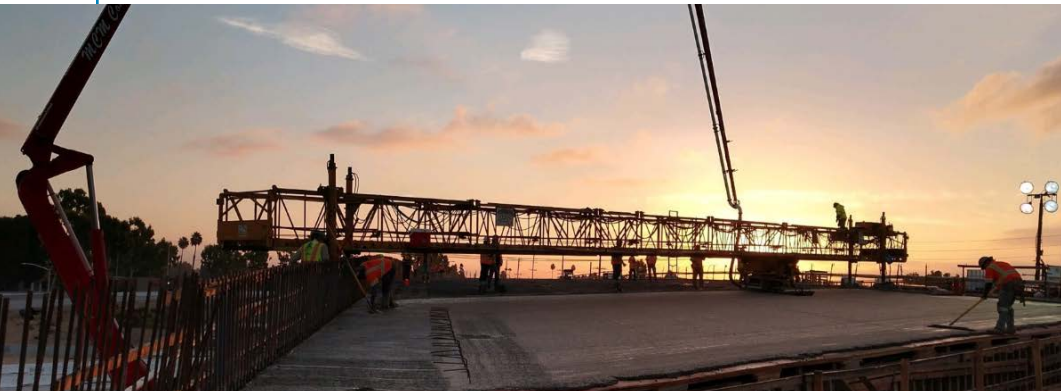
We'd like to extend a big "congrats" and thanks for ridesharing to the October winners of the Club Rideshare monthly prize drawing of \$25:

- Geraldo Ruiz, SSA
- Brian Maurer, Auditor Controller
- Albert Vega, SSA



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.



I-405 Express Lanes Are One Step Closer to Opening

With the recent reopening of the Newland Street Bridge—the 18th and final bridge reconstructed as part of the **I-405 Improvement Project**—the entire project is nearly complete.

A 16-mile stretch of the 405 Freeway between Costa Mesa and the LA County line has been undergoing improvements since 2018.

The project will add one regular lane in each direction as well as express toll lanes.

Construction is expected to be complete by the end of this year.

Metrolink Holiday Discount

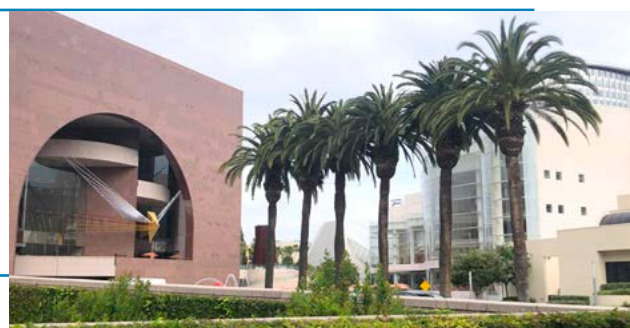
On Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, Metrolink will run on its Sunday schedule. It's only \$10 to ride anywhere Metrolink goes, all day long.



Club Rideshare

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

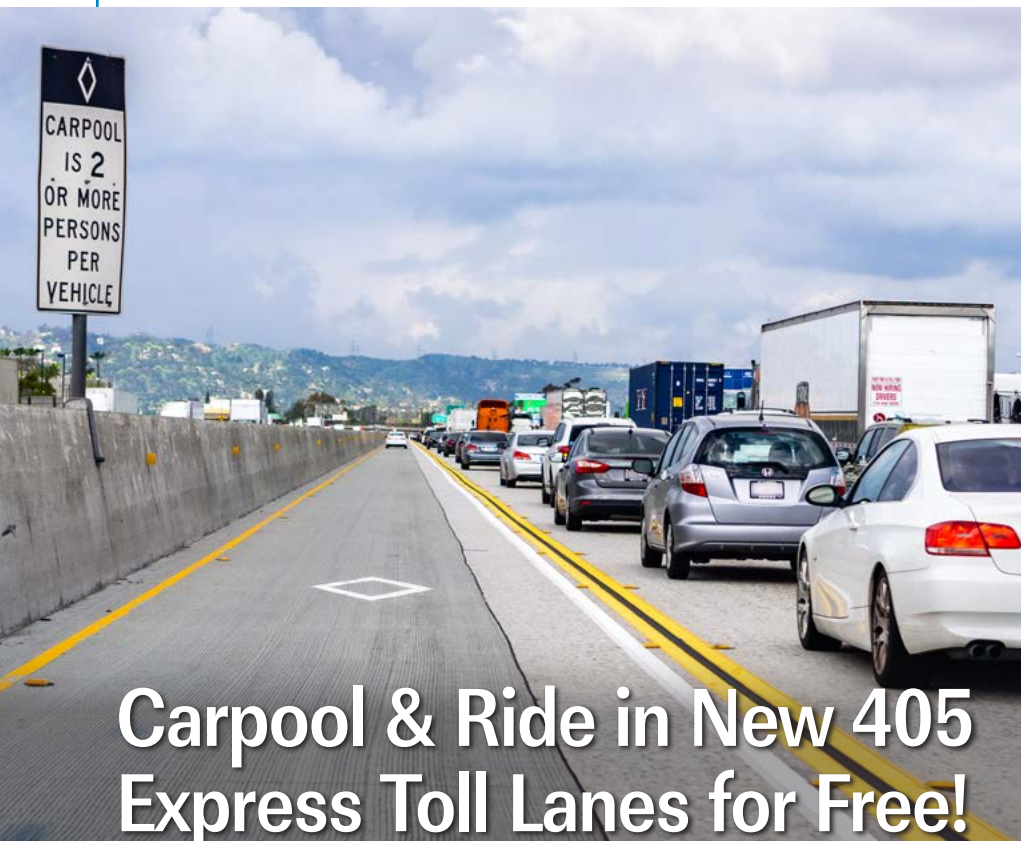
The Rideshare Office Has Moved!
OC Rideshare Program Office
County of Orange
Human Resource Services
400 W. Civic Center Dr., 3rd Floor
Santa Ana, CA 92701





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

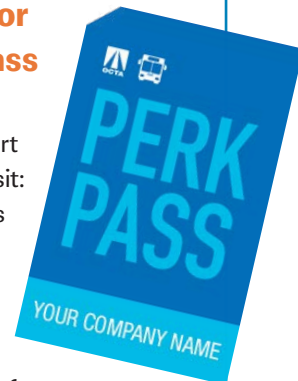
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Keep an Eye Out for Your 2024 Perk Pass

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.

(continued)



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!
OC Rideshare Program Office
County of Orange
Human Resource Services
400 W. Civic Center Dr., 3rd Floor
Santa Ana, CA 92701

