

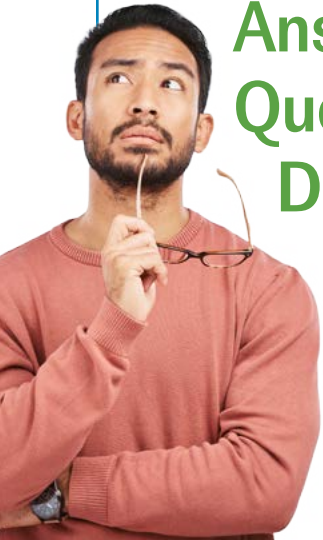


# Club Rideshare

June 2024 Newsletter



## Answers to Your Biggest Questions About Payroll Deduction



*Did you know...?* The County allows you to pay for vanpool fares and purchase transit passes through the convenience of a once-a-month payroll deduction. It's not only more convenient, but it can also save you money.

Here, we answer some of the most often asked questions about the commuter payroll deduction program:

**Payroll deduction allows you to pay for vanpool and transit costs using pre-tax dollars—up to the IRS limit of \$315 per month.**

### Q: "What's the benefit of paying for commute expenses through payroll deduction?"

Quite simply, payroll deduction allows you to pay for vanpool and transit costs using pre-tax dollars—up to the IRS limit of \$315 per month. This lowers your overall taxable income, potentially reducing what you pay at tax time.

You may also qualify for fare discounts when you ride OC Bus.

### Q: "How does it work?"

Sign up for the program through the Rideshare Office by downloading and completing the **Payroll Deduction Form**. Then turn it in to by the first of the month prior to the month you'd like to start receiving pre-tax benefits.

- **If you vanpool:** The cost of your monthly vanpool voucher will be deducted and paid automatically.

- **If you ride Metrolink:** The type of pass(es) you request will be mailed to your home or delivered to your mobile device via the Metrolink mobile app. The pass can be customized to a senior or student rate with proof of date of birth or student ID.



- **If you ride OC Bus standard service:** You'll be mailed an annual Perk Pass, a swipe card that you'll use to pay your fare upon

*(continued)*



### Hop Aboard Free Trolleys

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

Free trolleys are available in the **Balboa Peninsula, Dana Point, Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, San Clemente** and **San Juan Capistrano**.



### Cool Rides Bring Rewarding Summer Vibes

If you live in Riverside or San Bernardino counties, you could win great prizes—including a set of Apple AirPods and a \$250 Amazon gift card—with IE Commuter's Cool Rides, Summer Vibes promotion.

To participate, create or log into your **IECommuter account**. Then log the days you telework or rideshare to work throughout June, July and August for a chance to win prizes each month.

You must log at least eight round-trip commutes and/or telework days to qualify.

For details, visit [IECommuter.org/SummerVibes](https://IECommuter.org/SummerVibes).



## ...Payroll Deduction *(from page 1)*

boarding. With a Perk Pass, you pay only \$1.25 per boarding (vs. \$2 cash fare)—and no more than \$69 a month, no matter how often you ride.

• **If you ride OC Bus and qualify for special fares** such as a senior, disabled or student discount: Fill in the type of pass needed when you sign up for the program. Your pass will be mailed each month to your home address.



## Find Out if Vanpooling Could Be Right for You

The next Lunch and Learn is June 19, 12 to 1 p.m. Save the date, and then tune in to find out if vanpooling might be a less stressful, more affordable way to get to work.

A vanpool is a group of people who commute together regularly in a leased van. It is ideal for people who commute 15 miles or more each way and work fairly regular hours. You'll learn how to join or start a vanpool, as well as how to pay fares and sign up for money-saving incentives.

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.

## Congrats 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:

- Vince Loung, Auditor Controller
- Tina Chen, OCHCA
- Angel Torres, OCHCA

## 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).



**If you Vanpool:**

The cost of your monthly vanpool voucher will be deducted and paid automatically.

**If you ride Metrolink:**

The pass(es) you request will be mailed to your home or delivered to your mobile device via mobile app.

**If you ride OC Bus standard service:**

You'll be mailed an annual Perk Pass, a swipe card that you'll use to pay your fare upon boarding.

**If you ride OC Bus and qualify for special fares:**

Your pass will be mailed each month to your home address.

### Q: "I don't rideshare every day—can I still use payroll deduction?"

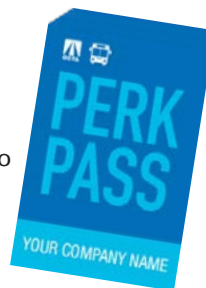
Yes—just sign up for the type of pass that best suits your commute. For example, on Metrolink you can choose a 5- or 10-Day Flex Pass, which is ideal if you work a hybrid schedule or prefer to drive in on some days.

### Q: "Do I have to get a Perk Pass?"

It's only required if you ride OC Bus standard service and want to receive pre-tax benefits and discount fares. The good news is, the card is free, and you'll board at a discount rate no matter how frequently (or infrequently) you ride.

### Q: "Can I use payroll deduction to pay for non-commute travel?"

While transit is a great way to see Southern California's many attractions with friends and family, the pre-tax benefits are only available for commute or work-related travel. You must pay for any leisure travel separately.



### Q: "How much will I save on my taxes?"

The amount will vary depending on your monthly transportation costs as well as your overall income. Consult your tax advisor or the IRS at [irs.gov](http://irs.gov).

For more information on payroll deduction for commute expenses, contact the Rideshare Office.

**With a Perk Pass, you pay only \$1.25 per boarding (vs. \$2 cash fare)—and no more than \$69 a month, no matter how often you ride.**



## Club Rideshare

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