



OC Commuter

News for a better commute from the OC Rideshare Office



Latest Transportation Updates Due to Coronavirus



The 511 network—which provides free traveler information online at go511.com—is posting the latest transportation information changes due to Coronavirus (COVID-19). This includes updates on freeways, express lanes and specific transit providers in Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ventura counties.

As of this publication’s posting date, most transit providers have

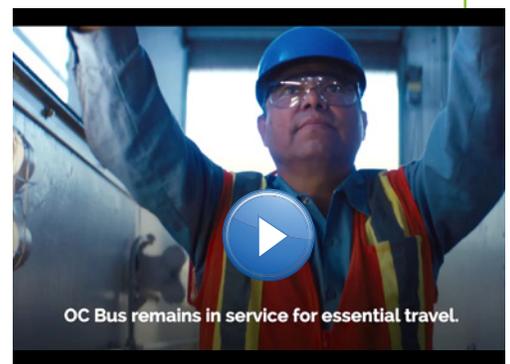
remained in service, providing vital transportation to essential workers. Temporary adjustments—including changing or consolidating routes, switching to back door boarding and requiring riders wear face masks—are being made to ensure safety of both passengers and transit workers.

Other resources for transportation news updates:

- L.A. Metro: metro.net
- L.A. Metro’s blog *The Source*: thesource.metro.net
- Metrolink: metrolinktrains.com
- OC Bus/Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA): octa.net
- OCTA’s blog *On the Move*: blog.octa.net
- Riverside Transit Agency: riversidetransit.com

A Message from OC Bus...

Thank you to OC Bus’s drivers and other employees, who make it possible for essential workers to get to the job.



“My Commute”

April Thornton recently switched to driving an electric vehicle for her commute from her home in Fullerton to where she works at OC Health Care Agency in downtown Santa Ana. She did it to make better choices for the environment as well as to save money. “I like driving past the gas station and not having to worry about the price of gas anymore,” she says.

She was able to qualify for a rebate from the state, as well as the \$100 bonus through the [OC Rideshare Office](#).





Supporting Santa Ana Businesses

Last year, OCTA launched the **Eat Shop Play program**, which supports Santa Ana businesses located along the OC Streetcar construction area. Recently, with the evolving situation around COVID-19 and the stay-at-home order issued by Governor Newsom, the program's focus has shifted to using Instagram and Facebook ads to promote participating businesses offering to-go and pick-up services.

For more information on the Eat Shop Play program or the OC Streetcar project, please visit [here](#) or follow it on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).



Construction Projects Continue in the OC

Construction continues during the Governor's Stay-At-Home Order at the **I-405 Improvement Project**, the **OC Streetcar** construction site in Santa Ana and those at the **Laguna Niguel to San Juan Capistrano Passing Siding Project**.

Construction on these and other projects are continuing because highway and rail infrastructure projects have been designated a critical service.

OCTA conducted safety training that allowed jobsite leaders to explain coronavirus safety measures to ensure that employees and their families know the best practices for keeping healthy during the pandemic.



5 Helpful Bike Resources

May is traditionally Bike Month. While the usual events and activities sponsored by OCTA are being postponed until September, biking is still an option to be celebrated—especially as a way to get where you need to go while practicing social distancing.

Orange County has plenty of resources that make it easier (and some perks to sweeten the deal).

1. The OC Loop. The **OC Loop** provides off-street trails that connect to some of Orange County's most popular destinations, including transit hubs. So far, 54 miles of the loop are open (with 66 miles when the project is complete).

2. \$2 a Day. If you live in San Bernardino or Riverside counties and bike to work (or to your nearby transit stop), you may qualify to earn \$2 a day for the first three months in incentives or discounts at thousands of area retailers with their **Rideshare Plus** program.

3. Orange County Bikeways Guide. Orange County is criss-crossed by about 1,000 miles of bikeways that can take you from Santa Ana to San Juan Capistrano, from Brea to the beach. OCTA offers an online map—if you'd like a printed copy, please complete the **bikeways guide request form**.

4. Routing Apps. Find bike-friendly routes that give preference to bike lanes and wider streets using **mapmyride.com**, **bikemap.net**, **strava.com**—there are plenty of free bike routing apps available.

5. Bike Huts and Lockers. Bike Huts provide secure bike parking at several locations in Santa Ana for a monthly membership fee. You can also find a map of low-cost bike lockers at [octa.net](#).



Get Charged Up

Need to charge your EV? Several apps are available that show EV charging locations so you can find one near your worksite or wherever you need to plug in your vehicle. Some popular apps include **PlugShare**, **Open Charge Map**, **ChargeHub**, **Chargemap**—plus EV charging locations are available on **Google Maps**.

If you have recently purchased or leased an electric vehicle, you may be eligible for a \$100 incentive through the **Get a Charge** program.



How OC Employees Commute...

Thank you to everyone who filled out a transportation survey last September. The results are in and will help shape transportation programs for County employees.

With 90% of employees responding, there's plenty of good news. The number of participants in Club Rideshare—the County's rideshare program—is up by 48 from 2018. There was a 10% increase in employees signing up for the OC Bus Perk Pass and Metrolink Corporate Quick Card programs—both of which allow commuters to use pre-tax dollars to purchase transit passes.

During the survey week, County employees who chose alternatives to driving saved:

- \$261,551 in commute costs
- Nearly a half-million miles
- 26,077 gallons of gas
- More than 250 tons of emissions

For more information on commuting assistance for Orange County employees, visit the [Rideshare Department's web page](#).



Tips for OC Teleworkers

Many County employees are working at home to help flatten the curve while still keeping services and projects going—yet full-time telework can present challenges. How can you stay productive while staying at home? How do you best keep in communication?

Here, we offer some tips:

Create a workspace. Designate an area as your work zone—whether a desk in your spare room or simply a portion of the dining table. It's a prompt for your brain that "this is where I work." It also creates that boundary between work and home.

Share your work schedule. It lets your family or roommates know to respect your work time and space. Coworkers will know when they can contact you, especially if your work hours differ from what they usually are.

Communication is key. It's easy to feel isolated and out-of-step when you're not coming into the office. Because coworkers can't just pop over to your workspace to ask questions or discuss issues, it's important to be accessible and respond quickly electronically to keep projects on track.

Interact regularly with your boss and, if possible, schedule conference calls or video conferences.

On occasion, opt for a phone call rather than an email as a way to stay better connected.

Take care of yourself. Some ideas: Take a coffee break. Get up and move around every hour. Set your watch or fitness tracker to just stop and breathe.



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