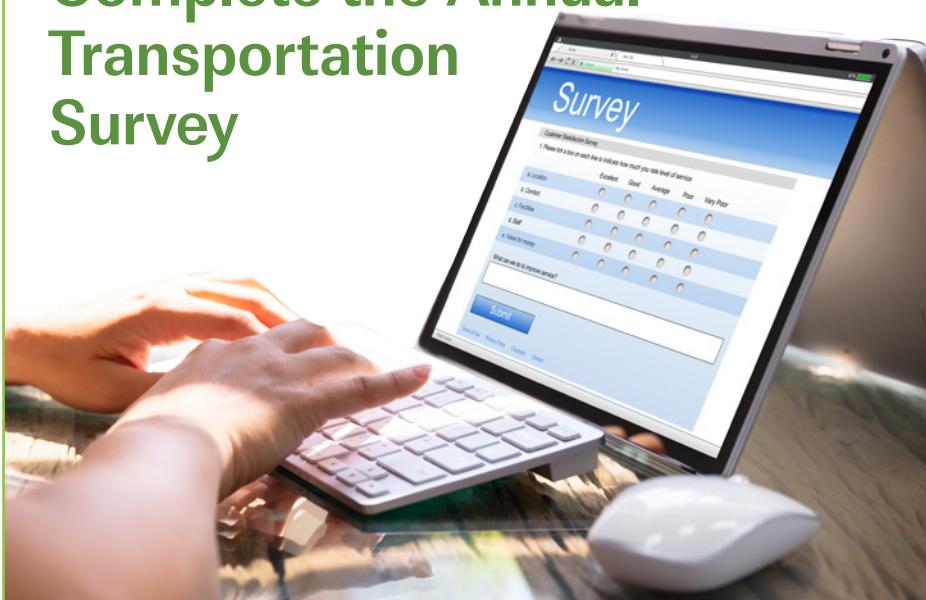


OC Commuter

News for a better commute from the OC Rideshare Office



Top 5 Reasons to Complete the Annual Transportation Survey



The Rideshare Office recently emailed all County of Orange employees the annual transportation survey.

The survey collects information on how you commuted (or telecommuted) to work the week of Sept. 14-18.

A few good reasons why you should fill it out and turn it in...

1. It's mandatory for employees to complete the survey. Whether you've been reporting to the worksite or are currently working from home, your input is vital—and required. The County must conduct this survey annually to meet clean-air mandates.

2. You could win prizes. As a thank you for your time, when you complete the survey by the Oct. 2 deadline, you'll be entered for a chance to win one of 10 \$25 Amazon gift cards.

3. You can opt to get a free RideGuide commute planner.

A RideGuide gives you commute options such as carpool partners, available vanpools, transit routing and more based on where you live, work and your work schedule. Even if you're not interested in these options now, it could be handy information to have in case of an emergency. To get a RideGuide, simply check "yes" to the last question on the survey. ([More](#))

Bike to Work & Win

Bike to Work Week is Sept. 21-27, and Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is challenging commuters to bike to work, or wherever it is you need to go, instead of driving.

Then [register your rides](#) for a chance to win a Trek 2 bike and Saris Bones 2-Bike bike rack. The more days you ride, the more chances you have to win.

Bicycling is a zero-pollution way to get where you need to go. It also allows you to practice social distancing on the commute.

You can participate in Bike to Work Week even if you're not currently reporting into the office. OCTA will be issuing special challenges throughout the week for at-home workers.

Find out more and get helpful safety tips at octa.net/BikeToWorkWeek.



Find Transportation Updates at Go511.com

During the Coronavirus pandemic, the 511 transportation network has been posting daily updates at go511.com.

Get the latest information on changes in Southern California transit services and routes, as well as express lanes and freeways that may affect your commute.



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Transportation Survey

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4. Filling it out only takes a few minutes. The survey primarily collects information on whether you got to work by driving alone, carpooling or vanpooling, riding transit, biking or walking—or if you worked at home some or all days.

5. It helps the County better meet your commute needs. Survey results are also used to evaluate how we are doing in providing commute services to employees and identify areas where we can improve.

The survey should be in your inbox or you can [download it here](#). Questions? Contact OC Rideshare at 714.834.7600 or rideshare@ocgov.com.

Is It Safe to Ride the Train?

Metrolink recently released *How Full Is My Train?*, an online tool that allows riders to check the recent typical ridership of their train so they can be assured there's plenty of room for social distancing. The agency is also monitoring ridership so it can add train cars or trains as they reach capacity levels of 30% or more.

Use it at metrolinktrains.com/howfull.

In addition to following social distancing guidelines, Metrolink requires riders and employees to wear a face mask. They've also more than doubled the number of hand sanitizing stations on all trains.



The Census Is Due Soon

The deadline to submit your Census form has been extended to Sept. 30. Be sure to be counted!

Federal and state governments rely on Census data to decide how to allocate funding for public services and infrastructure, which includes public transportation—so your input is needed to keep Orange County moving.

You should have received a form in the mail, or you can complete the [online Census form](#).

Celebrate Clean Air Commuting

National Drive Electric Week is Sept. 26-Oct. 4. It kicks off with a [national virtual event on Sept. 24](#), 5-6:15 p.m. (PT). RSVP for a chance to win \$250.

If you already drive an all-electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle, you'll find ways to get more from the experience. If you've been thinking of going electric, you'll find events and networking opportunities (most are online) that'll give you information to help you make the plunge.

Find details and a frequently-updated list of events at driveelectricweek.org.

Did you know...?

Within 90 days of buying or leasing an electric vehicle or plug-in EV you can apply to get a [\\$100 bonus incentive](#) from the Rideshare Office.



Metrolink Introduces 5-Day Flex Pass

If you're riding the train less these days, or want to ride only occasionally, Metrolink now offers a 5-Day Flex Pass.

Travel on the days you need to with five one-day passes. Flex Pass is good for 30 days, and users save 10% off round-trip ticket prices.

You can purchase it in advance exclusively on the **Metrolink Mobile App** for safe, contactless ticketing.



& More News: Kids Ride Free Weekends



Southern California is rich with all kinds of outdoor experiences that are accessible via Metrolink—and now **kids (ages 17 and under) ride free on weekends**. The cost of an adult 1-Day Pass is only \$10 on Saturdays and Sundays.

With every \$10 Weekend Day Pass you buy, up to 3 kids ride free anywhere Metrolink travels.

No ticket is needed for the children. They simply board with their parents. Face masks are required on Metrolink platforms and trains, except for children two years old and under.

OC Bus Distributes Free Face Coverings

OCTA passed out more than 11,000 free face coverings on three of its busiest routes in the first two weeks of a pilot project aimed to protect riders' health.

The state requires that passengers wear face coverings on public transit. OCTA buses are equipped with onboard dispensers on the following routes:



- Route 43
- Bravo! Route 543 that runs along Harbor Boulevard between Fullerton and Costa Mesa
- Route 66, which runs along McFadden Avenue between Huntington Beach and Irvine

OCTA plans to make free face coverings available on additional bus routes in the coming weeks.

If You Need a Ride Home...

As of July 1, the new fiscal year means that if you've maxed out your Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) rides, it's a fresh start—so you may be able to claim up to two rides home in the coming year.

The Regional CRH Program reimburses you for the trip cost if an emergency means you need to get home quickly on a day you carpooled, vanpooled, rode transit, biked or walked to work.

For more information and for the CRH reimbursement form, [click here](#) or contact the Rideshare Office.



Answers to Your Parking Questions

Know your parking options as an employee of Orange County, as well as the benefits you can qualify for if you carpool, vanpool or drive an electric vehicle (EV).

General Employee Parking

OC's parking facilities consist of eight multi-story parking structures and 10 surface parking lots with nearly 8,500 individual parking spaces.

Parking is first come, first served and is shared with visitors to County offices.

Parking at the Civic Center

The **Civic Center Campus (CCC)** has designated employee parking facilities that are shared among its County departments. At this campus, employee parking is assigned, is never guaranteed and can be revoked at any time.

Employees must park in their designated parking facility.

Since parking at the CCC is limited, overflow employees may park in nearby general use lots (but not other CCC lots).

Carpool/Vanpool Parking

Carpoolers/vanpools may park in special Carpool Parking spaces which are reserved and may be located closer to building entrances.

A carpool is defined as two or more people in a vehicle that ride together a minimum of three times weekly on a regular basis.

To get a designated carpool space, fill out a Carpool Application, have it signed by all carpool participants, and email it to parking@ocpw.ocgov.com. Upon approval of the application, one of the carpool members will be contacted to make arrangements for picking up the hangtag and a parking access key card (if required).

Carpool parking spaces must be renewed quarterly.

Electric Vehicle Parking

Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations are located at the following lots: Manchester Lot, P7 Twin Towers lot, and the County Administration South Building parking structure. Additional EV charging stations are planned in the Civic Center area as County Budget and Energy rebate incentive programs allow.

To use the charging stations, you must set up an account with the ChargePoint vendor and pay for the electricity (per KWh) and any additional charges if they exceed the time limit while charging your EV.

For more information about parking at County of Orange worksites, visit the [OC Public Works Department](#).



While some employees are not currently reporting to the worksite, some workers continue to do so and some who usually carpool or ride transit may temporarily be opting to drive instead.



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OC Rideshare Program Office

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