



# Club Rideshare

July Newsletter



## Get Discounts with “Eat Shop Play”

Sign up to get deals and discounts at Santa Ana restaurants, shopping, entertainment and more at [ocstreetcar.com/EatShopPlay](https://ocstreetcar.com/EatShopPlay).

You'll also receive coupons and learn about one-of-a-kind events.

The Eat Shop Play program supports local businesses impacted by construction along the path of the OC Streetcar.



## Getting Back to Ridesharing?

Many employees' commutes changed in March 2020—whether you started working at home—or you didn't feel comfortable riding transit or carpooling at the height of the pandemic.

Now that the state has officially reopened, more people are returning to the commute.

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) offers an [online guide for those employees still uncertain about sharing the ride](#). It includes tips and information on health and safety measures for OC Bus, OC Vanpool, Metrolink and OC Flex.

You can also [contact the Rideshare Office](#) for help if your commute changed and you'd like help in finding new options.

## Riding Transit? Mask Up!

Although the State of California lifted its mask mandate on June 15, riders and drivers on public transit must still wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth.

That's because the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has extended its face mask requirement through Sept. 13 across all transportation networks throughout the U.S., including buses, rail and trains (and planes).

Many bus systems—including OC Bus—provide free masks aboard buses or at transit stations for those who need them.

## Shop Local Along the 405 During Construction

OCTA is partnering with the cities of Fountain Valley, Westminster and Huntington Beach on a free program that highlights and promotes local businesses near construction on the 405 Freeway during a major improvement project.

Know of a local business that can benefit from this program? Have them check out [ocstreetcar.com/405Forward](https://ocstreetcar.com/405Forward) to sign up.

You can also share your favorite local restaurants and retailers and learn about specials, discounts and offers by joining the [405 Forward Facebook group](#).





## "Why I Rideshare"

About three years ago, Maria Ayala made the switch to Metrolink, riding it daily from the North Main Corona station to where she works in the Sheriff's Department in Santa Ana.

She temporarily went back to driving alone when the pandemic hit, but in November began riding the train again.

"I didn't like driving. For me, it's the convenience of the train, and having the ability to just relax and not stress in traffic," she says.

Prior to discovering Metrolink, she'd battled traffic for 10 years on her commute. "I finally decided to take the train," Maria says, "And when I did, I asked myself, 'Why didn't I take it before?'"

She not only likes avoiding traffic, but she enjoys the camaraderie on the train. "I've made a lot of friends taking public transportation. It's been nice to meet new people."

## Congratulations Club Rideshare Winners

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

- Rosie Perez, Superior Court
- Romelia Harrison, SSA
- William Dube, OCPW



## 405 Construction Halfway Complete

The Magnolia Street bridge over the San Diego Freeway recently opened, marking another major milestone for the I-405 Improvement Project. It's the fifth bridge to open among 18 being built, widened or replaced.

In addition to the bridge construction, substantial work has been completed to improve on-and off-ramps and widen the freeway.

At this point, construction on the project that began in early 2018 is about 55% complete, according to OCTA.

The I-405 Improvement Project improves 16 miles of freeway between the SR-73 freeway in Costa Mesa and I-605 near the L.A. County line. It will widen the corridor, adding Express Lanes, bike lanes and sidewalks, among other improvements.

Learn more about the project at [octa.net](http://octa.net).



## Save With the 5-Day Flex Pass

If you ride Metrolink occasionally, you might benefit from their **5-Day Flex Pass**. The mobile pass comes loaded with five 1-Day Passes (to use within 30 days)—saving you 10% over the cost of purchasing them individually.

This pass is ideal for commuters who are mixing telework with coming into the office.

County of Orange and Superior Court employees who ride Metrolink can sign up for (or switch over to) the 5-Day Flex Pass by completing the **Payroll Deduction Authorization Form**.



## & More Metrolink Reminders...

- It's only \$10 to ride all day, anywhere Metrolink goes, on Saturdays and Sundays. Kids under 18 ride free (up to three per paying adult).
- Check out the **How Full Is My Train? tool** to see recent ridership of the train you plan to take and be assured there will be plenty of space for physical distancing.
- Join Metrolink's **SoCal Explorer loyalty program** and every time you ride, you earn points toward a free ticket—plus get access to deals and discounts at area retailers.



## Club Rideshare

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