



OC Commuter

Summer 2012

Coming Soon! Annual Transportation Survey

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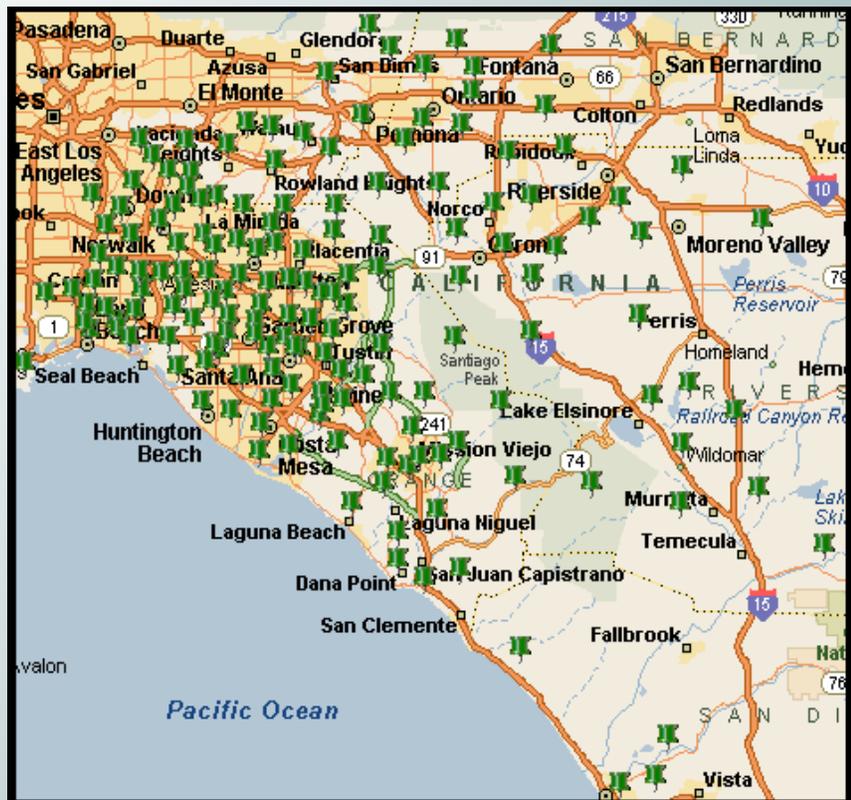
The OC Rideshare Office is gearing up for the Annual Transportation Survey. Watch for a special e-mail in September with a link to the on-line survey. All County of Orange and Superior Court employees are required to complete the survey, and when they do will be eligible to win a \$200 gift card.

The results of the annual survey are used to compare commuting trends from year-to-year. Two important bits of information collected, such as home zip code and e-mail address, allow us to reach out to employees throughout the year as new transit lines open, or if there is potential for forming a carpool or vanpool in their area.

The map below, generated from the 2011 survey data, pinpoints zip codes where 10 or more employees commuted from and shows that carpooling is a viable option from the west side of Orange County and parts of Los Angeles County. It also shows that vanpooling and Metrolink are key options for employees living in the Inland Empire or South Orange County.



The program provides employees who rideshare to work with a **free taxi ride home in the event of a valid emergency.** Use a [GRH Authorization form](#) to request an emergency ride home on a day that you carpool, vanpool, ride the bus or train.



Metrolink Rider Testimonials

What's a better way to learn the advantages of riding Metrolink than by asking those who ride the train for their workday commute? Here's what some of your co-workers had to say:

"I love taking the train. It gives me a chance to rest, read my book and meet wonderful people. I enjoy talking to my 'train friends' every day."

Melody Santamaria, Probation Department

"I initially did not want to ride the train from the Inland Empire...and decided to drive the first six years I've worked here. I was wrong! Riding the train is the ONLY way to commute from a distance and I can't imagine any other way to commute. Thanks, Metrolink — especially for the Quiet Car."

Karen Leland, Health Care Agency

"I have been part of the 'Metrolink family' for nearly 12 years and really enjoy it. I have made many friends, and I especially enjoy not having to drive the 91 Fwy or being stressed out about traffic. My drive is only five miles to the Lake Elsinore Outlets. Thank you, Metrolink!"

Arely Melendez, Social Services Agency

"Commuting by train for more than 10 years has helped me control my blood pressure, meet new friends and often turns my commute time into productive time. When I get home I don't need to decompress, and I'm ready for whatever the rest of the world has in store for me."

Ed Harrison, Probation Department

"For more than four years I've taken the train from the Oceanside station to Santa Ana. Three years ago I started riding my bike the 14 miles from my home to the station and then riding from the Santa Ana station to my office, and put 3,000 miles on my bike from January to July this year. The train is a stress-free commute, one I'm reminded of when watching the traffic on the 5 Fwy from the train windows."

Phillip Daigneau, Dir. of IT, Auditor-Controller

"I commute from West Corona and have been riding Metrolink since May 1995. The ride is relaxing and gets rid of any stress of the day. Riding Metrolink is the best thing since sliced bread. Just sit back, relax and enjoy your ride. Anyone who drove while the 91 Express was being built will know what I mean."

Dean Price, Information Technologist I, OCPW

And, special parting words from one of our Commuter Choice Metrolink riders who is retiring this summer...

"If it were not for Metrolink, I could not have held on this long! The Commuter Choice Program has saved me a significant amount of money and trouble! Thank you for all your hard work on this effort."

Sharon Furfaro (Ret.), Orange County Assessor's Office



Top Ten Reasons to Try Metrolink



- 10 It's more fun than driving alone
- 9 Read or snooze in the Quiet Car
- 8 Peddle power – bike then ride on the Bike Car
- 7 Purchase monthly passes with pretax dollars
- 6 Helps reduce your carbon footprint
- 5 Put mileage on the tracks – not your car
- 4 Commuter Club members are cool!
- 3 Save time – no traffic jams to fight
- 2 Save money – buy gas less often
- 1 **Try the Train on Us – get a refund on a 1-Day pass!**



For more information about ridesharing:
www.ocgov.com/hr/rideshare
714.647.1931 • rideshare@ocgov.com

Commuter Club Quarterly Winners!

Each quarter we randomly select eight Commuter Club members to each receive a \$25 gift certificate. Congratulations to this quarter's winners:

- Elizabeth Campos, Health Care Agency
- Jeff Flaming, Sheriff/Coroner
- Christopher Garcia, Sheriff/Coroner
- Kesha Griffin, Social Services Agency
- Irma Aguilar, OC Public Works
- Crystal Lee, County Executive Offices
- Javier Pena, Health Care Agency
- Douglas Zeissner, OC Public Works

Not a member of the Commuter Club? You can become one if you rideshare at least five days per month. It's easy to sign up using our [All-in-One](#) form. When you sign up for the Commuter Club you'll receive a card honored by local merchants for special discounts, plus a \$15 gift card. Members are also eligible for quarterly drawings and much more!

OCEA Health Fair

The OC Rideshare Program staff will again host a Rideshare Booth at the 2012 OCEA Health Fair October 2nd from 10AM to 1:30PM at OCEA. Stop by the rideshare booth and give our prize wheel a spin! We'll have some exciting prizes and you can also pick up information about Rideshare Week and the other great services and incentives that the OC Rideshare Program offers to all County of Orange and Superior Court employees.



OC Green Fair

Did you get a chance to stop by the 3rd Annual OC Green Fair on May 17th? If you did, you learned why ridesharing is the easiest way to "go green," and the environmentally-friendly way to commute. OC Rideshare Program staff promoted ways to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion. We also rewarded some of our employees (aka: cowboys and cowgirls) with some fun western-themed prizes and gift cards!



LIKE this for a chance to win \$25!

Stay informed through a new Facebook page that has lots of information for all commuters. You'll find the best stories and events posted by Metrolink, OCTA, Caltrans and other agencies plus fun commuter news and promotions at: www.facebook.com/TransVironmentalSolutions.

OCTA Updates

Do you want to be the first to know about OCTA special events and promotions? If so, sign up for [OCTA e-News](#). Keep updated on what’s happening with Orange County transportation, including bus service, freeway improvement projects, local street improvements and rail service. You’ll also be automatically alerted to any changes and updates to OCTA bus routes. It just takes a minute to sign up and you’ll never again miss the bus, the train or anything else that has to do with your Orange County travels.



Take the Bus to Disney Resort’s Cars Land

Beat the crowded parking lots and traffic heading to the “happiest place on earth” this summer by taking an OCTA bus. The fare is only \$1.50 each way – that’s a lot cheaper than the parking fee! The following routes can take you within a short, half-mile walk to the Disney theme parks:

- Route 43: Serving Fullerton, Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, Fountain Valley and Costa Mesa
- Route 50: Serving Long Beach, Los Alamitos, Cypress, Stanton, Garden Grove, Anaheim and Orange
- Route 83: Serving Laguna Hills, Santa Ana and Orange

Metrolink Updates

Fare Increase

After skipping a fare increase last year, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority Board of Directors approved a seven percent fare increase that went into effect on July 1st. Monthly pass holders will see an increase of approximately \$20 per month. Metrolink also added additional round-trip trains from Riverside to Laguna Niguel on the IE-OC Line and one from Laguna Niguel to Fullerton. For more details on these new fares and routes visit www.metrolinktrains.com.

New Unlimited 7-Day Pass

Metrolink has introduced a new 7-Day Pass, valid for unlimited travel during a seven-day period between station pairs starting on the day when the pass is purchased. This new pass replaces the old 10-Trip Tickets. Give the 7-Day Pass a try soon!



Beach Trains

The popular “Beach Trains” are back! Metrolink added four round-trip trains on its Orange County Line and they will continue indefinitely. No more ending in October like previous years so everyone can now ride in comfort to our beautiful beaches all year long. And smart riders like you can use the \$10 Weekend Pass to visit our fabulous beaches and other fun spots from 7PM Friday to 11:50PM Sunday each week. Just buy your pass at any Metrolink station ticket vending machine (TVM) and plan for a great weekend without hassling with traffic or parking.



Rideshare Week 2012 – October 1-5

Get ready to celebrate Rideshare Week, October 1 – 5! This annual state-wide event encourages commuters to choose alternatives to driving alone to work. The OC Rideshare Office is again partnering with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) for this annual event. All week, commuters who give ridesharing a try will have many opportunities to win lots of prizes from OCTA. Check the [OCTA web site](#) in late September for details.



In addition, the OC Rideshare Office is offering registered Commuter Club members the chance to win a \$50 gift card as part of our “Bring-A-Friend” promotion. The winners will be highlighted in our next newsletter. Look for a special invitation in October!

Did You Know...

- The www.RideMatch.info website has new features, making it easier for you to start ridesharing. You can create a commuter profile for a list of carpool or vanpool matches, bus/rail itineraries, bike buddies and much more. You can also link your profile to your Facebook or Twitter accounts, sign up to get alerts when there’s a new carpool match for you, and there is a handy calendar feature to track your commute costs.
- Readers and Transit are a great fit! The new, state-of-the-art Fullerton Transit Center Station parking structure opened on June 20, 2012. The multi-level structure has a self-service book vending machine hosted by the Fullerton Public Library. It is stocked with best sellers and a variety of paperbacks. Just use your City of Fullerton library card to check out the books and return them to the machine.
- There are hundreds of connections you can make with your valid Metrolink ticket including city bus, shuttle bus, light rail, and subway lines. There are three simple rules:
 1. All Metrolink tickets must be stamped with today’s date to be valid for boarding connecting transit (monthly passes must be for the current month).
 2. Metrolink tickets are good for free rides on most local transit services only. An additional fare payment may be required for express or other non-local bus service.
 3. Just show your Metrolink ticket to the driver or attendant upon boarding your connecting transit service.



See [Metrolink’s Transit Stations](#) for more information.

Depending upon your department’s internal policy, the social media links (Facebook and Twitter) may or may not be accessed or viewed

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The OC Commuter Newsletter is published by the Commuter Assistance Program Office managed by the Human Resources Department. Our mission is to distribute commuter information to all County of Orange employees so that they can make informed decisions about how they travel to work. For more information about the Commuter Assistance Program, please go to the web site.