



OC RIDESHARE PROGRAM

OC Commuter

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Inside this issue:

Annual Transportation Survey	1
Now Available! New Features!	1
Bike to Work Week a Success for Health Care Agency (HCA)	2
Top Five Reasons to Ride Metrolink	2
OCTA Express Routes Means Fewer Stops	3
Ride Matching Made Easy	3
Metrolink Update	3
Special Oct. Vanpool Incentive	4
Rideshare Thursday	4
Rideshare Week	4

Annual Transportation Survey

The Annual All Employees Transportation Survey is currently underway. You should have received a special email this month with a link to the on-line survey. Please let your manager know if you did not receive the link. All County of Orange and Superior Court employees are required to complete the short survey, and will be eligible to win a **\$200 gift card!**

The results of the annual transportation survey are used to compare commuting trends from year-to-year and to add features to the OC Rideshare Program. Some of the information collected allows 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 from your area.

In addition, through the survey process, you can request to be added to the **Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds**, a list of County of Orange and Superior Court employees interested in carpooling or vanpooling. Employees voluntarily contact co-workers to discuss sharing the ride.

Rideshare Event

Visit the OC Rideshare booth at the OCEA Health Fair on October 1. Spin the Rideshare Wheel to win fun prizes and pick up information including OCTA Rideshare Week pledge cards. You can also [pledge on-line](#) for a chance to win some fabulous prizes from OCTA sponsors. We hope to see you there!



Now Available! New Features!

The OC Rideshare Program has added more new features just in time for the holiday season. If you haven't tried ridesharing, now is the time! These three incentives have been enhanced:

- **Club Rideshare** - Register for the first time and track 20 rideshare events to receive a \$30 e-Card. Members are eligible for monthly drawings, merchant discounts and exciting contests plus a monthly e-bulletin that highlights additional discounts, alerts and fun things for rideshare participants. **Now** members can renew annually and receive a \$10 e-Card, and refer a co-worker and receive another \$10 e-Card when they enroll.
- **Commuter Choice Program** - You can still purchase bus, train or vanpool fares with pretax dollars through the payroll deduction process to lower your taxable income. **New!** The option to purchase vouchers good at Amtrak ticketing windows is now available. **And, the \$69 e-Pass bus card deposit requirement has been eliminated.**
- **Try-Transit-On-Us** - Get reimbursed **now** for a 7-day ticket instead of just a 1-day ticket the first time you purchase a ticket on any public transit system to commute to work.

For information on all the OC Rideshare Program incentives, visit www.ocgov.com/hr/rideshare.

Bike to Work Week a Success for Health Care Agency (HCA)

HCA's very first promotion of Bike to Work Week, May 13 to 17, was a great success. HCA Program Supervisors Jeremy Harris, Dr. Helen Calvet, Rhena Carusillo, On-site Rideshare Coordinator, Rosa Cortez and other HCA personnel organized the event.

Jeremy Harris said approximately 15 employees participated in Bike Week by riding their bikes to and from work or riding public transit and biking the rest of the way to work.



According to Jeremy, Dr. Calvet rode the longest distance. "She rode 20-miles each way." No slouch himself, Jeremy regularly rides his bike or walks to work. "I've been riding to work for two years. It saves fuel and the twice a day ride is better exercise than going to a gym."

To encourage more employees to ride their bikes to work, presentations were given on Wednesday of Bike Week by Richard Carusillo, a bicycle shop owner and

bike club member who explained bicycle maintenance, how to change a bike tire and other ways to make biking more enjoyable and safe. Orange County Transportation Authority distributed bike trail maps to employees, and according to Jeremy, was very popular, as was OCTA's information on bike storage lockers.

Besides getting exercise and leaving the car at home, there were drawings for participants for gift cards, bike bags, bike accessories and other prizes. Jeremy and the other participants will be gearing

up for the Bike to Work Week next spring and plans to keep on riding until then.

Bike riders can become members of our [Club Rideshare](#) by tracking 20 days that they commuted by bike during a 90 day period. Club Rideshare members receive a \$30 e-Card, and are eligible for monthly drawings, merchant discounts and other contests plus a monthly e-bulletin that highlights additional discounts, alerts and fun activities for rideshare participants.

Top Five Reasons to Ride Metrolink

There are many good reasons to ride [Metrolink](#) to commute to work. Here are the top five:

1. **Gain Time:** Commuting to and from work on a clean, comfortable Metrolink train gives you extra time in your day to read, make calls, relax and get a jump on your workday, maybe even nap.
2. **Reduce Stress:** Instead of sitting in rush hour traffic, you'll be flying past it and enjoying all the benefits of stress-free commuting.
3. **Reduce Car Expenses:** When you leave the car at home, you save on all kinds of automotive expenses, including gas, insurance, parking and auto maintenance and depreciation. Riding the train costs an average of 18¢ per mile.
4. **Free Connecting Transit:** Your Metrolink ticket entitles you to a free bus or light rail connection from your Metrolink station to your worksite.
5. **Pay with Pre-tax Dollars:** Purchase your monthly pass through a payroll deduction and reduce your taxable income by up to \$245 per month. Simply enroll in the [Commuter Choice Program](#) and start paying lower income taxes! You may also be eligible for a \$100 e-Card after your second month!



Metrolink recently kicked off a promotional campaign for those who purchase a monthly pass for the first time. A Welcome Aboard registration card, included with your new Corporate Quick Card, is used to register to receive an "I Love Rock&Roll" Commuter Swag Bag containing a flash drive, t-shirt, water bottle, ear buds and umbrella--all in a drawstring bag. Click [here](#) to view a short "How to Ride Metrolink" video.

OCTA Express Routes Means Fewer Stops



OCTA operates express bus routes for long distance commuters. These routes begin at Park & Ride facilities where commuters can leave their vehicles and travel to business centers in Orange County. These routes utilize freeways, have fewer stops and operate only during peak morning and afternoon times Monday through Friday. Here is a summary of the OC Express routes servicing County of Orange facilities:

- Route 757 travels from Pomona or Diamond Bar to Santa Ana, offering stops in Brea, Anaheim and Orange
- Route 758 travels from Chino or Diamond Bar to the Irvine Spectrum, with stops in Brea
- Route 794 travels between Riverside and Corona to the South Coast Metro area.

For schedules and fares, click [here](#).

As an added benefit, you can reduce your taxable income by purchasing your tickets for these express routes with pre-tax dollars. Simply enroll in the [Commuter Choice Program](#) and start paying lower income taxes! You may also be eligible for a \$75 e-Card after your second month!

Ride Matching Made Easy

To help you find the right carpool partner, we'll add you to the **Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds**, a list of County employees interested in carpooling or vanpooling from your specific area or along your commute route. OC Rideshare maintains this confidential listing that is posted on the County HR Portal under the heading of General Resources. Employees voluntarily contact co-workers to discuss sharing the ride. Submit an [All-in-One](#) form if you would like to have your basic commute information added to the Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds list.



You can also register to be listed in a regional database that includes interested employees from companies in the surrounding areas. Visit www.Ridematch.info or www.Go511.org or dial 511 to register.

Metrolink Update

If you're a Metrolink monthly pass holder who travels the Orange County or Ventura Line, then you might want to take advantage of the Rail 2 Rail program. Rail 2 Rail allows Metrolink monthly pass holders along the Orange and Ventura county corridors to travel on Amtrak Pacific Surfliner trains within the station pairs of their Metrolink pass at no additional charge. Metrolink passengers simply show their monthly pass and board any Amtrak Pacific Surfliner train or bus to their destinations.



As of June 1, 2013, Metrolink monthly pass holders **with bicycles** are not allowed to board Amtrak Pacific Surfliner trains without purchasing an Amtrak ticket and reserving a bike slot in advance. Metrolink trains, however, can be used if your commute requires bicycle transport. Metrolink operates special Bike Cars on selected trains, and all Metrolink passenger cars are designed to hold three bikes per car.

Special October Vanpool Incentive



Now is the time to gather commuters and form a new vanpool group! Each new van that starts commuting during the month of October will get \$150 off their first month's rental. Plus OCTA is kicking in a \$150 gas card in addition to a [\\$400 monthly subsidy](#) for each qualified vanpool. After the first three months on the road, the employee leasing the van will get a \$300 e-Card from the [OC Rideshare Program](#)! Employees that sign up to purchase seat vouchers through the payroll deduction process get a \$50 e-Card after 60 days in the Commuter Choice Program!

A vanpool is a group of people who share the cost of commuting and ride in a leased vehicle that includes maintenance and insurance. Vehicle sizes range from seven-seat minivans and SUVs to full-size 15-seat conversion vans. The group divides the cost of the van lease, gas and other expenses, making it especially beneficial for individuals with longer commutes. Check the OC Rideshare Program [Vanpool Classifieds](#) for a list of co-workers also interested in vanpooling.

Many times, vanpools in OCTA's regional database have space available for new riders who would like to join. Commuters who are interested in joining an existing vanpool can add their information to OCTA's database. They can then search for open vanpools, contact vanpool coordinators and even join a waiting list if the vanpool they are interested in is currently full. Learn more and try the **Vanpool Seatfinder** at www.octa.net/vanpool.



The **Rideshare Thursday** marketing effort started on September 9th in Southern California, and will run for 10 weeks.

"The term 'Rideshare Thursday' was first introduced in the '90s to let commuters know that they didn't have to rideshare *every* day to reap the benefits," says Greg Pettis, Chair of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee, which is funding the campaign.

During the campaign, the Rideshare Thursday message will go out through the radio, online at RideshareThursday.com, social media, sports promotions, and more. There will be contests in an interactive and fun format, and participants will have the opportunity to enter drawings for exciting prizes.



Don't forget to participate in **Rideshare Week** October 7 – 11 by [pledging](#) to bike, vanpool, carpool, bus or take the train to work to help reduce CO2 emissions in Orange County. When you pledge to participate, you'll automatically be eligible to win great prizes from some of Orange County's best merchants, restaurants and destinations!

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