



OC RIDESHARE PROGRAM

OC Commuter

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OC Rideshare Program - Another Successful Year!

Inside this issue:

OC Rideshare Program - Another Successful Year!	1
Technology and Public Transit	1
Earth Day - April 22	2
Earthquake Preparedness Month	2
May is National Bike to Work Month	2
"Tell Us Your Story" Winners	3
Why Ride Metrolink?	4
More Parking for Metrolink Riders	4

The OC Rideshare community has grown substantially over the last 12 months. Participants recognize the advantages of ridesharing and have been spreading the word to co-workers. Ridesharing includes carpooling, vanpooling, taking public transportation, walking or bicycling to work. Thank you for participating!

We know many of you are ridesharing, but have not yet enrolled in the programs offered by OC Rideshare. We also know there are many of you that have considered ridesharing, but have not taken the time to investigate your options. Go ahead--take a few moments to browse our website www.ocgov.com/hr/rideshare for details and enrollment forms. See what YOU might be missing!

The OC Rideshare Program staff is ready to help you get started or to answer any questions. Reach us by email, Rideshare@ocgov.com, or by calling 714-647-1931. We're here to help.

Try Transit On Us

Did you know that OC Rideshare will reimburse you for a 1-day or 7-day ticket the first time you purchase a ticket on any public transit system to commute to work?

It's easy. Purchase your ticket and send a copy of your proof of purchase attached to the OC Rideshare [All-in-One](#) form.



Technology and Public Transit

Transit companies now offer an array of "Rider Apps" for cell phones, handheld devices and computers that make it possible for riders to easily receive text messages of scheduled route information, status updates, Google Transit trip itineraries, and you can even get the "next stop" schedule for the train and bus. Here are links to some of the transit companies' rider apps:

- [OCTA Get Connected](#)
- [Metrolink Rider Apps](#)
- [Metro Rider Apps](#)
- [Amtrak Mobile](#)

Social networking sites are also available for finding the latest information from the various transit companies. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube are standard features on most transit company websites for easy access to rider alerts and general information. Visit our website's [Commuter Useful Links](#) page for transit company websites and social media pages.

Earth Day - April 22



The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, activated 20 million Americans from all walks of life and is widely credited with launching the modern-day environmental movement. The passage of the landmark Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and many other groundbreaking environmental laws soon followed. Growing out of the first Earth Day, [Earth Day Network](#) (EDN) works with more than 22,000 partners in 192 countries to diversify and mobilize the environmental movement.

Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, was the founder of Earth Day. He came up with the idea of Earth Day after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara. More than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.

Earthquake Preparedness Month

April is designated "Earthquake Preparedness Month," and is when the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) urges all Californians to empower themselves by learning about the earthquake risk in their communities and what steps to take to prepare and protect themselves for when the next quake strikes.

While California has excellent emergency response and recovery capabilities, our responders can't do it alone. It is the responsibility of every individual to take action, get informed, and get actively involved in emergency preparedness.

Click [here](#) for California earthquake preparedness information.



May is National Bike to Work Month



National Bike to Work Month was established in 1956 to encourage people to enjoy the benefits of cycling.

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is promoting a wide variety of local [events](#) that will be fun and practical. Learn to cycle safely, and discover many programs like the new "[Bikeshare Program](#)" in Fullerton.

Quiz yourself on your bike safety knowledge and [pledge](#) to ride your bike to work during Bike to Work Month. You'll receive a \$25 coupon from JAX Bicycle Center, and you'll have a chance to win great safety gear.

Bike to Work Week is May 12 – 16. A highlight of Bike to Work Week/Month is Bike to Work Day: Thursday, May 15. That's when thousands of people will give bicycle commuting a try.

“Tell Us Your Story” Winners

We are pleased that so many renewing Club Rideshare members took the time to tell us about their positive experiences while riding the train, bus, carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling and walking. Thank you for your responses. Here are the Rideshare Story winners for this quarter. Each will receive a \$25 e-Card!

Ta Mera Bethune, Social Services Agency

Ta Mera has ridden the Metrolink from Corona to Santa Ana for nearly seven years and loves it for more than the usual reasons such as saving time, car expenses and commuter stress. Because of a work schedule change in 2012, she began riding at a different time and soon her life changed.

“In August 2012 on the Metrolink,” said Ta Mera, “I met Ron, the love of my life. Since that day my life has never been the same.”

One of her favorite things about riding Metrolink, besides whizzing by freeway traffic, is that she and Ron get to see each other every day. And these Metrolink mates even ride it on the weekends. “We’ve taken trips from Corona to Oceanside just to enjoy the beach,” said Ta Mera. “Did you know it’s free on the weekends if you have a monthly pass?”

Besides finding love on the Metrolink line, Ta Mera stated, “No matter what office I am placed, I will map my route according to the Metrolink schedule, and not how long it will take me to drive.”



Darren Tan, Public Administrator/Public Guardian



Darren found a way to make his daily commute from Diamond Bar to Santa Ana a lot easier—by carpooling. After his previous carpool partner moved away after nearly a year of carpooling together, Darren turned to the Carpool Classifieds to find a new carpool partner.

That was in 2011, and Darren and Heather Condon have been carpooling and alternating their rides ever since. Darren and Heather found the Carpool Classifieds to be a great way to find a carpool partner.

Both live in Diamond Bar, and take turns driving each week. They work just a few blocks apart in Santa Ana. “By carpooling we have saved an enormous amount of gas and time, plus energy—since the passenger gets to relax.” He added that carpooling has given them a chance to learn about each other’s agency.

And what about those unforeseen days when you are carpooling and must go home? Both Darren and Heather have used the Guaranteed Ride Home program. Both replied, “It worked out great”.

Thuc Nguyen, Assessor’s Office

When Thuc’s car lease ended in 2011, he looked into other options for his commute and then acquired a nice mountain bike from a friend. Thuc converted it to an electric/peddle bike and began his 20-mile round-trip commute from Irvine to Santa Ana. “I am proud to say I’ve been biking to work every day for three years now,” said Thuc. “I don’t need the motor anymore.” Thuc said he’s lost 15 pounds using peddle power and is saving on car expenses, gym membership and the planet. “Orange County has the perfect weather for bicycling all year long. Just do it,” said Thuc.



Why Ride Metrolink?

[Metrolink](#) is one of the most stress-free ways to commute to work in Orange County. There are three Metrolink lines with 11 stations conveniently located from Buena Park to San Clemente. OCTA's Metrolink rail service is your link to work and to many fun destinations. It's part business and part pleasure all wrapped up in an easy traffic-free ride.

FREE Connections With Metrolink!

We know that your trip doesn't begin or end at the Metrolink station. The good news is that there are FREE connections to local transit. Simply show your current validated Metrolink pass to the driver or conductor. With it you can hop on almost any local bus, shuttle, light rail or subway that connects to your train's arrival station. On Metrolink, you'll ride free the rest of your trip!

To make your commute easier, you can request a Metrolink Corporate Quick Card (COC) to retrieve your monthly train pass reserved by OC Rideshare for your specific route. Each month a payroll deduction is processed for monthly passes that you've retrieved from the Ticket Vending Machine. The cost of your monthly pass will be paid with pre-tax dollars under the Commuter Choice Benefits Program. [Enrollment](#) is quick and easy.

Enjoy this short "How to Ride Metrolink" [video](#).



More Parking for Metrolink Riders

[Metrolink](#) riders in Orange County now have more space for parking their cars as the result of a new 176-space lot at the [Laguna/Mission Viejo Station](#).

Built on Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)-owned property, the lot brings the total number of parking spaces at the station to 460.

The \$4.3 million project was funded by Measure M, the County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements and state funds through Prop 1B.

"As our population continues to grow, it increases the importance for Metrolink to provide a true alternative to sitting on the freeway," said OCTA Director, Frank Ury. "This kind of improvement helps commuters more easily access a train and makes Metrolink a more attractive choice."

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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.