

The County Commuter



Fall 2007

Annual Transportation Survey Time

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Each year all employees must complete a brief transportation survey. The focus of the survey is the types of transportation used to travel to work during a specific one week period. The results of the survey are used to evaluate changes in our commuting patterns from year to year. The survey process also gives you the opportunity to request information from our staff and to apply for various rideshare incentives.



Once again, we are posed to conduct this survey in mid-September, and thanks to the hard working folks in the IT Department, we will again be conducting the survey on-line for the majority of the County's departments/agencies. For those employees who do not have access to the Intranet, a paper version of the survey will also be made available.

Be sure to look for your e-mail message from our Human Resources Department, with the link to the on-line survey. The good news is that all employees who complete the transportation survey during the first week will be entered into a drawing to receive an Apple i-Pod! So don't hesitate, we must achieve a 90% (or better!) response rate.

If you have any questions about the upcoming survey process, please send an e-mail to rideshare@ocgov.com or call the Message Center at 714-647-1931. Good luck, and thanks in advance for completing the annual transportation survey.

New Metrolink Schedules and Station

New Metrolink schedules went into effect on Tuesday, 9/4/07.

Click [here](#) to see the new Metrolink schedules or call 800-371-5465.

Buena Park Metrolink Station Opens

The **new** Buena Park Metrolink station is now open. The trains on the Orange County Line and the 91 Line will be making stops at the Buena Park station located at 8400 Lakeknoll Dr. in Buena Park, near the intersection of Dale St. and Malvern Ave.

Click [here](#) for information about the grand opening of the new station as well as the train and connection schedules.

Quarterly Commuter Club Drawing

Current Commuter Club members are reminded to renew their commitment to rideshare at least once a week through the annual transportation survey process explained on page one of this newsletter. You must renew in order to receive the annual thank you gift and to continue enjoying the benefits of the Commuter Club.

We're happy to announce the winners of this quarter's drawing for rideshare participants from the County of Orange Commuter Club members! Each quarter, we draw eight (8) names of current Commuter Club members and they win a \$25 gift certificate! This quarter's winners are:

- Corazon De Guzman, OC Public Library
- Michael Horibe, Human Resources
- Teofil Nicolae, OC Sheriff Dept
- Michael Gryzik, Sheriff-Coroner
- Ngoc-Diep Duong, Probation
- Stephen McGreevy, OC Dist Attny
- Nasrin Soliman, OC Sheriff Dept
- Wayne Hsiao, Health Care Agency

Not a member of the Commuter Club? Willing to rideshare at least five days per month? If so, be sure to sign up for the Commuter Club to receive your \$15 Starbucks Card sign-up bonus and to become eligible for these quarterly drawings and more. To sign up, print and complete the [All-in-One application](#). Applications are also available at the Commuter Information Display Racks—click [here](#) for a list of locations.

Special thanks to those employees who recently completed the Commuter Club questionnaire. We received an overwhelming response rate of 71%! Highlights from the results of the survey include:

- 82% loved and used the Starbuck's Card that they received as the annual appreciation gift
- 28% have used their Commuter Club Card for discounts at one or more of the merchants listed in the OCTA Destination Deals program
- 68% have referred a fellow employee to the Commuter Club program

And the best news of all is that 90% of our Commuter Club members are very likely to continue ridesharing! Also, congratulations go out to **Elvia Cortez**, who won a \$25 gift card for participating in the questionnaire.



Rideshare Week

Ridesharing puts you in the fast lane – saving you time, money and allowing you to enjoy a better way to get to work. That's the message behind the upcoming Southern California Rideshare Week campaign that runs October 1-5, 2007.

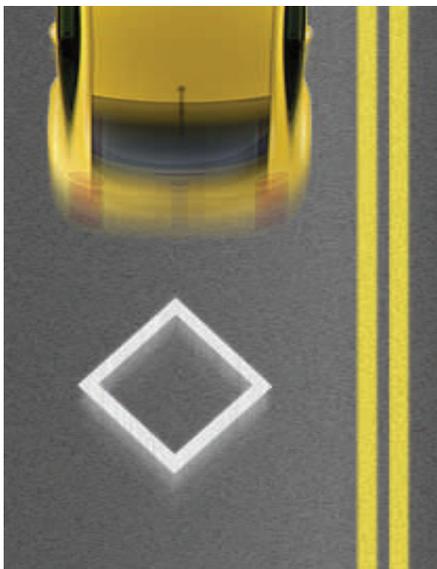
You can be a part of this exciting campaign that celebrates alternatives to driving alone. Rideshare Week is sponsored by OCTA, and this year commuters who pledge to rideshare at least once during that week may qualify to win great prizes including getaways, Metrolink passes and more!

You can click [here](#) to be linked to the OCTA website to pledge on-line. You can also pick up a pledge card at one of the County's [Commuter Information Display](#) racks or you can call 1-800-COMMUTE.

Let's make it a "four-peat," and keep the winning streak going – one lucky County of Orange employee has won a prize from the OCTA Rideshare Week drawing each year for the past three years! Who says you can't win with ridesharing!?



or



Study Finds Commutes Farther & Longer

Southland commuters are traveling farther to and from work, they're taking longer to do it, and they are not happy about it. So says the latest *State of the Commute*, a report about commuters' habits and attitudes that was recently released by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the regional planning agency.

On average, commuters in the Southland now make a 38-mile round trip each day. That is up from 32 miles in 1998, the last time the survey was conducted. The commute now takes one hour and 17 minutes --- up from one hour and 9 minutes in 1998.

Perhaps that's why commuters gave their commute the lowest satisfaction rating since the survey's inception, ranking it a 5.6 on a scale of 1 (low) to 9 (high). The previous low was 5.8 in 1990. A majority of those surveyed said traffic is worse now than it was a year ago.

What are the options? Consider carpooling or vanpooling, riding the train, taking the bus, walking or biking!

Did You Know?

- The last 7.25 mile section of Route 210 is now complete! It includes three mix-flow lanes and one carpool lane in both directions and links with the existing Route 30 (east of Fontana) across northern San Bernardino. For more information click [here](#) to go to www.sanbag.ca.gov or call 1-866-HELP210.
- Southern California has 10.8 million licensed drivers. We have 9,400 miles of freeway lanes and 840 miles of carpool lanes. The average motorist uses 790 gallons of gasoline in a year. You'll find more fascinating facts in the Regional Pocket Guide, available from the Southern California Associated Government web site. Click [here](#) to download the guide.
- New Metrolink schedules went into effect on Tuesday, 9/4/07. Click [here](#) to see the new schedules or call 800-371-5465.
- Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is celebrating 35 years of service. Throughout September, a special "party bus" will travel throughout Orange County, offering lucky passengers free rides and prizes. Details are at www.octa.net.
- Metrolink recently announced its plans for a new "sealed corridor" program, designed to dramatically improve safety at crossings.

Commuter Assistance Program

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The County 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.