

The County Commuter



Spring 2007

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Sound Off About Traffic in OC

Interested in sharing your thoughts on how to improve the transportation challenges facing South Orange County? The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is working on a project called “Traffic reDesign for South Orange County”. Why not tell them what you think by completing a short survey and by contributing your ideas like, “This is what I’d fix....”. Your feedback will help OCTA critically evaluate the transportation routes and services in South Orange County and help with its short and long-term strategic planning.

To complete the survey, click [here](#) or contact Carolyn Caveche with your suggestions by calling 1-888-647-4762. You can also visit their main web site at www.octa.net.

New Carpool Connector Opens

Last month, Caltrans opened the carpool lane connector between the Pomona (60) and Orange (57) freeways in Diamond Bar. Carpoolers no longer have to weave across multiple lanes of traffic to transfer from one carpool lane to another. This makes for a safer and faster commute for County of Orange employees who live in Pomona, Philips Ranch, Diamond Bar and Chino Valley who carpool to work. Commuters that use carpool lanes cut an average of 36 minutes from their daily drive time.

For more information visit the Caltrans District 7 website at www.dot.ca.gov/dist07.

New Park & Ride Lot Opens

If you live in or near Ontario, you now have a new fifty-one space “park and ride” lot where you can park your car and catch a ride with a carpool or van-pool! The lot, operated by San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), is located in Ontario, just south of the Pomona (60) freeway at the Archibald exit at the Montecito Baptist Church at Walnut.

For more details, visit www.CommuteSmart.info.

Special point of interest:

Clean Air Choices is a program, sponsored by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, to provide information to help you make personal transportation decisions that benefit the environment and improve air quality.

Check out the low-emission vehicles for model years [2006](#) and [2007](#) to help you identify clean air cars in the dealer showroom. From full-size passenger cars to SUVs, you’ll be amazed at the popular styles and selection of clean air vehicles.

Also provided are [links](#) to useful information on reducing your personal exposure to toxic air pollution and reducing air pollution at home.

Quarterly Commuter Club Drawing

We're happy to announce the winners of the quarterly drawing for the County of Orange Commuter Club ride-sharing member program! Each quarter, we draw eight (8) names of current "active" Commuter Club members. This quarter's winners are:

Sylvia Udaya, HCA
Eulalia Mugica, Auditor-Controller
Alan Chun, CSS
Maria Meaney, Probation

Tina Chen, HCA
Jessica Gardea, Auditor-Controller
Gloria Dominguez, SSA
Teresa Decker, Superior Court

Each have won a \$25 gift certificate redeemable through GiftCertificates.com, where they can select items from over 20 merchants!

Do you rideshare at least five days per month? If so, be sure to sign up for the Commuter Club. New this year is a sign-up bonus—a \$15 Starbucks Card! To receive this bonus when you sign up for the Commuter Club, we ask that you track how you've been ridesharing five times a month for three months. You will then be eligible for the quarterly drawings and receive a Commuter Club Card to show for discounts from OCTA's Destination Deals participating locations. To sign up, click [here](#) to link to the All-in-One form, or you can send an e-mail to rideshare@ocgov.com. The All-in-One forms are also available in the commuter information display racks throughout the County. Click [here](#) for a list of the display rack locations. The program message center can be reached by calling 714-647-1931.



Inland Empire Ridesharers Go Shopping

Inland Empire Commuter Services' Rideshare Plus program offers ridesharers that live in Riverside and San Bernardino counties discounts at local venues. The new 2007 catalog of participating merchants is currently available on the Rideshare Plus website at www.rideshareplus.info. You can also view and print the Rideshare Plus application form.

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.

Did You Know?

- Americans do more than just drive behind the wheel. If you talk on the phone while driving or fix your hair, you are not alone – a recent survey showed that 81% of Americans do more than drive when they're behind the wheel!
- May is Clean Air Month, sponsored by the American Lung Association – for more details, call 1-800-LUNG-USA or visit the American Lung Association's website at www.californialung.org.
- May 17th is Bike to Work Day, sponsored by the California Bicycle Coalition and various local agencies. For more details, call 1-800-679-BIKE or visit the California Bicycle Coalition's website at www.californiabikecommute.com.
- Carpool lane violation fines go up to \$341 minimum ticket from a previous minimum of \$271.