



The County Commuter

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EPA Recognizes OC's Rideshare Program

The County of Orange was recently recognized for its successful rideshare program and named to the Best Workplaces for Commuters.SM (BWC). The BWC program encourages employers to voluntarily meet a *National Standard of Excellence*. Employers who meet this standard of excellence are noted on the BWC website: www.bestworkplaces.org. BWC is a partnership program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

The County joins in a nationwide effort of more than 150 BWC-designated worksites who, through Commuter Assistance Programs, are striving to reduce traffic congestion, traffic-related air pollution, fuel consumption and single-occupant vehicle commuting.

The results of the County's efforts are reflected in the lowering of ground-level ozone, the major component of smog.

For more information about the program click on www.ocgov.com/hr/rideshare; send an email to rideshare@ocgov.com; or call the Message Center: (714) 647-1931.



The Earth Day Network is trying to generate "a billion acts of green." Sign up and be one in a billion – commit to one thing that you'll personally do to help the environment, such as recycle, rideshare or use less paper. To register, go to www.billionactsofgreen.com



Save Our Lungs—Save Our Planet

Your daily commute costs you far more than just the gas you put in your car's tank. Your real costs include upkeep, insurance, and the cost to the environment for every car on the road. Learn the costs of your commute and your other options available by using the **Carbon Cost Calculator**. Check it out right now at: www.octa.net/co2calculator.aspx.

Wow! Earth Day is 40 Years Old! The first **Earth Day** was organized back in 1970 to promote ecology, encourage respect for the earth, and to highlight the growing concern over pollution of the soil, air and water. This year, Earth Day is April 22, and is now observed and celebrated in more than 140 nations. You can celebrate Earth Day at



many Orange County locations during the month of April. Click [here](#) to find beach clean ups and other Earth Day events.

Commuter Club Rewards Program



Rideshare at least five days per month to become a Commuter Club member.

Earlier this year, new and renewed Commuter Club members received their 2010 Commuter Club discount cards and the “thank you” gift cards. Staff has been working hard adding new merchants and new discounts. View the list: www.ridesharesupport.com. Not a member of the Commuter Club? You can become one if you rideshare at least five days per month. When you sign up for the Commuter Club Rewards Program you’ll receive your discount card, plus a \$15 Starbucks Card as a sign-up bonus. Members are also eligible for quarterly drawings, and much more!

To sign up for the Commuter Club Reward Program, print out and complete the All-In-One application at: www.ocgov.com/hr/rideshare. Applications are also available at the Commuter Information Display Racks, or send an email note to rideshare@ocgov.com or call the Message Center at (714) 647-1931.



Commuter Club Quarterly Drawing Winners!

Each quarter we randomly select eight Commuter Club members to each receive a \$25 gift certificate. This quarter’s winners are:

- *Patrick Dennis, Superior Court*
- *Kieu Thanh Le, Probation*
- *Steve Paredes, HCA*
- *Vivienne Thorton, Auditor-Controller*
- *Raymond Fajardo, SSA*
- *Ariadne Zuniga, CSS*
- *David Valdez, HCA*
- *Annette Santillan, CSS*

Congratulations—Your electronic gift certificate is redeemable through GiftCertificates.com where you can select gift cards from more than 20– merchants!

Refer-A-Friend Winner

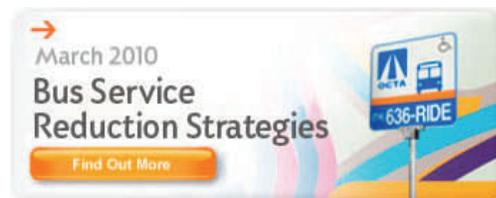


The more co-workers you refer, the more chances to win.

The latest winner is **Commuter Club member Anastasi-Natalie Perea, HCA**. She won a \$25 gift certificate redeemable at GiftCertificates.com and you can too if you are a Commuter Club member. As a member, all you do is list your name and phone number in the “Referred By” section of the Refer-A-Friend form at:

www.ocgov.com/hr/rideshare. Distribute copies of the form to your co-workers. When they submit their form, you are entered into the bi-annual drawing. The more workers you refer, the more chances you have to win. Get the word out about ridesharing—you could be the next winner!

OCTA Schedule & Service Changes



State transit funding cuts and lower sales tax revenue has resulted in reduced budgets for OCTA bus operations. Service reductions began March 14. Find the affected routes at: www.octa.net/march2010impacts.aspx. You can also view a complete list of the route changes by City at www.octa.net/CITY_mar10.aspx.

As an additional cost-saving measure, OCTA Bus Books will not be printed for June – please continue to use your March OCTA Bus Book. Current route information and bus schedules are always available at: www.octa.net and click on **eBusbook**.



What's 5-1-1?

Tired of being stuck in traffic? Help is on the way, and it's as easy as dialing 5-1-1. It is a new, nationally designated commuter information helpline to help commuters with high quality real-time traffic, bus and rail trip planning, plus rideshare information from your telephone, computer, Smart-phone or mobile device. Here's how it works...

By Telephone:

Dial 5-1-1 for real-time traffic information or say, "incident" to hear about Sig-Alerts, road construction, toll road links and more. Live operators are available during normal business hours to give you traffic information, carpool matching, Metrolink and Dial-A-Ride services, and park and ride lot locations.

On-Line:

Go to www.go511.com in Los Angeles and Orange

Counties, or to www.ic511.org in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties and link to "real-time traffic" where you can click on freeway segments for travel times from on-ramps to off-ramps, identify incidents, Sig-Alerts, changeable message signs, construction information, toll road links or cameras. For bus and rail commuters there is a "bus/rail" trip planner powered by Google transit. It includes walking directions to the bus stop or train station, pick up times, transfer points and fares.

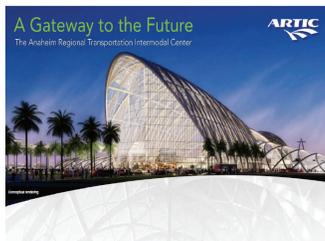
Metrolink Service Changes

The Southern California Regional Rail Authority Board of Directors met April 2 concerning the expected budget shortfall for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The Board heard proposals for *increasing Metrolink fares from 3% to 6% with a small number of station routes facing fare increases as high as 10%*. If the Board eliminates the 80-mile trip cap, some longer trips will have fare increases up to 13.1%. Final decisions will be made at their April 23rd meeting.

You can view the Inland Empire-Orange County Line Timetable with proposed service changes at: www.metrolinktrains.com.



Did You Know...



High-Speed Rail Systems Planned

High-Speed Rail System - No, it's not here yet, but the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) is working on it. In 2008, California voters approved Proposition 1A to support and fund a high-speed rail system. The Anaheim-Los Angeles segment is expected to be one of the State's first sections to be constructed. OCTA has contributed more than \$7 million to the environmental review process. Traveling at speeds up to 110-mph, passengers will be whisked in 20-minutes from Union Station in Los Angeles to Anaheim's Regional Transportation Center by

Angel Stadium (ARTIC). Check www.articinfo.com. The high-speed trains will use the existing Los Angeles-San Diego Rail Corridor (LOSSAN), currently used by Burlington Northern/Santa Fe (BNSF), Metrolink and Amtrak. The 800-mile, statewide system is projected for completion in 2030 and expected to transport more than 55-million passengers per year.

New Chino Hills Park and Ride Lot - The new 77-space lot located behind St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 14085 Peyton Drive, just west of Route 71, and south of Grand

Avenue, is now open for those that rideshare.

Move Over—It's the Law. As of July, Move Over became the law. When approaching a stationary emergency vehicle or tow truck with its sirens or emergency lights activated, drivers must proceed with caution and move into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the emergency vehicle or tow truck. This is to enhance safety around emergency vehicles or tow trucks stopped on freeways.

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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.

Rideshare Plus Program



Inland Empire residents who rideshare can now get discounts at more restaurants, theaters, stores and hotels than ever before when they participate in the updated Rideshare Plus program. Rideshare Plus has swapped its membership card for an Entertainment-style book with more than \$1,000 in coupons. There's also an online Savings Guide where members can print coupons at home for discounts at thousands of merchants nationwide.

To sign up for the Rideshare Plus program, print out and complete the [Rideshare Plus Application](#) form. Applications are also available at the Commuter Information racks, or send an email to rideshare@ocgov.com, or call the Message Center at (714) 647-1931.