



OC Commuter

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Annual Transportation Survey Time



participants to register or renew their commitment to rideshare, for which they will receive a small thank you gift.

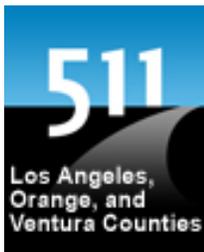
You should already have received an email from your agency/department Human Resources manager with the link to the on-line survey on the County Intranet site. For employees without easy access to the County Intranet, please click [here](#) to download a hardcopy of the survey. The instructions on where to return the hardcopy of the survey are included on the survey form.

You must complete the survey by September 30 even if you drove alone or did not report to work during the survey week. All employees who complete the survey by the September 30 deadline will be entered into a drawing to receive a \$200 gasoline gift card!

Click [here](#) for answers to common questions about the survey process.

Each September all County and Superior Court employees are asked to complete a brief survey of how they commute to work during a one week period. The survey is a requirement of a local regulation but also highlights commuting trends and ways to enhance the rideshare program.

The survey is also an opportunity for employees to request a carpool match list, a complimentary one-day bus or train ticket, and for current rideshare



Stay informed. Click [here](#) to view a short video about using ie511.org.



Rideshare Week Photo Contest



Show the Commuter Assistance Program (CAP) how creative you are, and you can win too! California Rideshare Week is October 4 – 8, 2010, and there will be lots of exciting events happening that week, including the Rideshare Week Photo Contest. Have your digital camera ready! If you spot someone in a vanpool or a carpool group, a commuter getting on a train or bus, someone walking or riding their bicycle to work, snap their photo and then email us your attached jpg photo to rideshare@ocgov.com by October 31. Include background info about the photo in your email (date, location, names). Also include your name, department/agency and email address. A panel of *esteemed* rideshare judges will select the top three photos. Those photos will be featured in future CAP posters and flyers, and each winner receives a \$15 Starbucks gift card!

Commuter Assistance Program Wins the Rideshare Diamond Award

The County of Orange has once again been recognized by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and other regional transportation agencies and awarded the Diamond Award. The County was nominated in the Outstanding Marketing Program Category for its innovative method of delivering relevant rideshare program information and material to solo commuters.

The award winning program included the creation of an e-mail distribution list based on the home "areas" showing the highest number of solo commuters driving to the Santa Ana Civic Center. The rideshare information that best fit the area (re: the benefits of vanpooling for longer distance commutes and/or bicycling or walking incentives for shorter commutes) was customized for each area. The outreach materials were then distributed electronically to targeted employees. Follow up was initiated one



Stephanie Smith-Pitts, OCHRD accepts Diamond Award

month after the outreach to assist employees with selecting the best alternative mode. Impact on participation was measured and compared to the previous year's activity, and showed significant increases in requests for complimentary train and bus tickets, increases in the Commuter Choice program and employees registering for the Commuter Club benefits.

Click [here](#) for more information about the award winning Commuter Assistance Program benefits and incentives.

Refer-A-Friend Winners!

Last quarter we challenged our Commuter Club members to refer the most County of Orange employees to join the Commuter Club before July 31. The person referring the highest number of rideshare participants won a "Summer-Party-On-Us" to share with their recruits. The lucky winner is **Natalie Anastasi-Perea** with HCA. Natalie referred three new rideshare participants -- congratulations!

Congratulations are also in order for the winner of the bi-annual "Refer-A-Friend" drawing. The winner is **Marco Mata** with SSA in Cypress. He'll be receiving a \$25 gift certificate.

Do you know a co-worker who might consider ridesharing? Do they need a gentle push to join a carpool, vanpool, take the bus or train, walk or ride their bike to work? Tell them about the great benefits of ridesharing and the Commuter Club. Maybe invite them to rideshare with you! Not only will you help with their commute but you'll also be eligible to win a \$25 gift certificate.



Click [here](#) for a "Refer-A-Friend" form. Or send an email to rideshare@ocgov.com for more details.

Quarterly Winners Announced

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

- **Thomas Barr, Superior Court**
- **Roger Chang, Sheriff-Coroner**
- **Susan Morales, Clerk of the Board**
- **Nelida Yanez, Child Support Services**
- **Monica Delzeith, Probation**
- **Katherine Garcia, Social Services Agency**
- **Sherrie Eakins-Franklin, Child Support Services**
- **Roland Tabangin, Health Care Agency**



Congratulations – your electronic gift certificate can be exchanged at GiftCertificates.com for original gift certificates from hundreds of popular stores, restaurants and much more, including Barnes & Noble, Old Navy, Sears, AMC Theatres, Applebee's, Panera Bread, Petco, Marriott, Avis and American Airlines, to name just a few!

Metrolink Commuter Profile: Sharon Furfaro—One Happy Commuter

The Commuter Assistance Program staff received a nice compliment from Sharon Furfaro after receiving the monthly Metrolink pass that she has ordered from us since 2008. We do get compliments every so often, but she wrote that we “relieve so much stress from her commute because of our program,” and we had to know more! So the *OC Commuter* decided to visit Sharon at the County Assessor's office. She has been with the County for 25 years! Sharon explained that in 2002 before deciding to move to the Inland Empire she impressed upon her husband that she needed to be close to the train so that she did not have to drive to work every day. She currently resides about 20 minutes from the train station where she and a few friends walk to the Downtown Riverside Metrolink station, weather permitting! They arrive a few minutes before 6 a.m. and then the fun really starts – on the train! She says there are card groups on certain cars, folks that started a knitting group, a cluster of parents and their tots, and then there is Sharon's group of 12 friends that like to plan their every-other-month evening on the town!

Sharon says that listening to her MP3 player, resting and relaxing are the best parts about her ride home in the evenings, but NOTHING can beat that she is stress free, and doesn't have to fight the traffic that she can see from her train window in the evenings as she flies by the 91 Freeway in the comfort of a Metrolink train.



Sharon Furfaro
County Assessor's Office

“You have to try it at least once – if you try it twice, you will not go back to driving!” says Sharon, “and the best part is that I pay for my commute with pre-tax dollars by participating in the County's Commuter Choice payroll deduction program.” Thanks Sharon – for ditching that solo commute, and thanks to all her friends as well!

Click [here](#) to request a free 2-day train ticket through the “Try the Train on Us” program.

OCEA Health Fair



**Tuesday, October 5, 2010
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

The Commuter Assistance Program staff will once again host a table at the 2010 OCEA Health Fair on October 5, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Be sure to stop by our table, give the prize wheel a spin and maybe win a prize! We'll also have information about all of the great services and incentives that the Commuter Assistance Program offers to all County of Orange and Superior Court employees.

For more information about the OCEA Health Fair, go to www.oceamember.org.



List of "green" cars that qualify for carpool lane permits expanded

Did You Know...

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently signed into law a measure expanding the list of environmentally friendly cars that qualify for carpool lane permits. The measure will allow up to 40,000 more California motorists to drive solo in the carpool lanes. It also extends the lifespan of existing permits for hybrid and electric vehicles. The bill, SB 535 by Sen. Leland Yee (D-San Francisco) and sponsored by General Motors, will provide thousands of permits for new models of fuel-efficient cars, including GM's Chevrolet Volt, due out later this year, as well as the new Toyota Prius and Nissan Leaf. For details on this legislation, visit <http://www.californiachronicle.com/articles/view/166501>.



Technology and apps that help with your commute

Get cool apps to help with the commute. A better commute may be as close as your mobile smartphone. Check out these free apps for everything from OCTA transit schedules to the location of the nearest bus stop—the fun way to try transit! Go to www.octa.net/mobileapps.aspx.

Orange County Metrolink is now on Facebook. OCTA has launched a fan page just for Orange County's Metrolink customers. Click [here](#) to learn about the newest train info, latest news and events in Orange County as well as interacting with other train riders. Metrolink and Facebook...it's the way to go!

Depending upon your department's internal policy, the social media links (Facebook and Twitter) may or may not be accessed or viewed

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The OC 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.