



Human Resources
 Rideshare



OC Commuter

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Have You Filled Up Lately?



We thought it would not happen until summer, but gasoline prices in SoCal have already reached or surpassed \$4 per gallon. Ouch. Our gasoline prices continue to be the highest in the nation, so what can we do to reduce what we spend at the pump? You can shop for the [lowest prices](#), keep your car in good working condition and combine errands. Another way is

to finally leave your car keys at home and start ridesharing or using public transit. Rideshare regularly to work with just one other person and you can split the cost for fuel. Ride the train or bus and relax. Even once a week will help. You'll not only save on gas, you'll also put fewer miles on your car, limit wear and tear—maybe even get a break on insurance costs.

The County's Commuter Assistance Program (CAP) offers resources, tools and incentives that support carpooling, vanpooling and the use of public transit. Details are always available at our web site: www.ocgov.com/hr/rideshare.

Vanpool Riders Needed	
Leave: Diamond Bar Area P&R Lot	
Arrive: Santa Ana Civic Center	
Work Schedule:	
Week One:	
Mon	7:30 - 5:00
Tues - Fri	7:00 - 4:30
Week Two:	
Mon	8:00 - 5:00
Tues - Thurs	7:00 - 4:30
Fri	Off
Contact rideshare@ocgov.com	



Time to Consider Carpooling

Are you thinking about carpooling but not sure where to start? First, a carpool is two or more people sharing the ride in a car, typically taking turns driving or sharing the expenses related to gas, tolls and parking fees. Most carpools are formed at the worksite; it's usually just a matter of finding a carpool partner, setting up some guidelines and hitting the road.

The **Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds** is a list of County employees looking for fellow employees that want to carpool. You can find this list on the County's HR Portal under General Resources. If you would like to be added to the list, please complete and return an [All-In-One](#) form, and we will add you to the list. You can also use the Southern California Ridematch.info website to find commuters from surrounding employers that are also interested in carpooling.

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Once you are ready to start a carpool, meet with your potential carpool partner(s) to discuss the details and determine if you are “carpool compatible.” Here are some items to discuss:

1. Set up a “trial period” for a few weeks to see if the arrangement works for you.
2. Determine who will drive and when. If you don’t have a car or would rather be a passenger, that’s okay. You can pitch in a portion of the monthly gas, tolls and parking fees, if any.
3. How often will you carpool? Daily? Once a week? You don’t have to carpool every day – set up a schedule that works best for you and your carpool partner.
4. Where will you meet? You can meet at a [Park & Ride](#) lot, childcare center or at one of the carpooler’s homes.
5. What should you do on the days that you can’t carpool – especially if it’s your turn to drive?
6. Decide how long you will wait if your carpool partner is running late.
7. What stops are you willing to make during your commute, if any?
8. Will you use the [carpool lanes](#)? These can save up to one minute per mile.
9. Decide the duties of the designated driver, such as filling up the gas tank before picking up riders, making sure the car is clean, etc.

The [Carpool Discussion Checklist](#) will help you to consider all the details. Carpooling is one of the easiest and most flexible rideshare options and is how nearly 11% of County employees currently travel to work!



Vanpooling Makes Sense Today

Let someone else fight the traffic while you read, chat, or nap to and from work. Vanpools are similar to carpools, except they generally involve five to ten commuters and the lease of a vanpool vehicle by one of the group. A vanpool group regularly travels together to work 30 miles or more (roundtrip) in a comfortable vanpool vehicle. The vanpool driver is a commuter just like you. Typically, riders pay a share of the monthly lease and expenses, while the vanpool driver rides at a discounted rate in exchange for leasing, driving and maintaining the van.



If you are interested in becoming a driver and starting a new vanpool, consider leasing a vanpool vehicle and filling it with other commuters from your area. Here’s how to get started:

1. Check out the **Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds** list available on the County’s HR Portal under General Resources.
2. Get commitments from at least five to ten potential riders.
3. Contact a vanpool service provider such as [Enterprise Rideshare](#) or [VPSI Commuter Vanpools](#).
4. Set up a vanpool formation meeting with one or both of the vanpool service providers. The CAP staff can help coordinate this for you.
5. Once you lease the van, the vanpool service provider will arrange for its delivery, and then you will be ready to go!

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The CAP offers a [Start-A-Vanpool](#) incentive for any employee that leases a vanpool for commuting with at least three County of Orange employees. That employee will receive a \$300 gift card after the vanpool has been on the road for three months and another \$300 gift card after their sixth month of vanpooling. Your vanpool may also qualify for a \$400 monthly [OCTA Subsidy](#) that helps keep costs down.

Vanpooling is a great way to commute, however, if you prefer the role of a passenger without driving, you can use the OCTA [Vanpool Seat Finder](#) to find a vanpool match.

Or, click [here](#) to see a complete list of all vanpools serving employment sites in Orange County. This list maintained by OCTA is sorted by the county of origin, then by city.

Easy Riding with Metrolink/OCTA



Quickly find the public transit provider serving your area by dialing 511 from your phone. You can also plan your trip using that phone number or go to the web version at www.go511.com. Choose the “bus and trains” option, and then “trip planner.” The site allows you to find the right bus or train route for your commute. Simply enter your home and destination locations, time you wish to leave/arrive, the fare type, and hit the “plan my trip” button.

You can get a free OCTA day pass or Metrolink round-trip ticket with the “Try the Bus/Train on Us” programs available through the County’s Commuter Assistance Program. Simply complete and return an [All-In-One](#) form and we’ll send you a complimentary ticket. If you like riding the bus or train and sign up to purchase the monthly pass through payroll deductions, you will receive the first month free. Simply sign up for [Commuter Choice](#).

Smart Ways to Conserve Fuel

Whether you drive an old or new car, you can increase your vehicle’s fuel efficiency by performing routine maintenance and adopting good driving habits:

1. Avoid aggressive driving – speeding, rapid acceleration and braking wastes fuel, and can lower your gas mileage by 33% at highway speeds and by 5% around town.
2. Observe the speed limit – gas mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 miles per hour (MPH). Each 5 MPH you drive over 60 MPH is like paying an additional .21 cents per gallon for gas.
3. Lighten the load! Clean out your trunk. Hauling excess weight in the trunk can reduce your miles per gallon by 2%.
4. Avoid excessive idling – you get zero miles per gallon when your car is at idle.
5. Use your cruise control – on the highway it helps you maintain a constant speed and helps save fuel.
6. Keep your tires properly inflated – this can improve your gas mileage by approximately 3.3%. Under-inflated tires can lower gas mileage by 0.4% for every 1 pound per square inch drop in pressure of all four tires, and properly inflated tires are safer and last longer – saving you money too!



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, www.fueleconomy.gov.

New Commuter Club Discounts

We have some great new discounts for our Commuter Club members – just show your card and save at these establishments:

[Laguna Art Museum](#)

307 Cliff Drive
Laguna Beach
Two for the price of one admission

[Johnny Reb’s Southern Roadhouse](#)

3532 Katella Ave.
Los Alamitos
15% Discount

[Chapman Coffee House](#)

505 N. Glassell
Orange
15% off entire purchase

[Da Bianca Trattoria](#)

7448 E. Chapman Ave.
Orange
10% Discount

For a complete list of participating Commuter Club merchants and their discounts, go to www.ridesharesupport.com. Some have printable coupons and others require that you show your Commuter Club card to enjoy the discount.



Commuter Club Quarterly Winners!

The Commuter Club is a reward program for County of Orange employees who commit to rideshare at least once a week. Commuter Club members receive discounts from local merchants, a one-time sign up

bonus, an annual thank you gift and are eligible to participate in quarterly drawings for gift certificates. To sign up complete and return an [All-In-One](#) form and we’ll send you a welcome packet.

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

- *Suzan Etheridge, Social Services Agency*
- *Lucileia De Paula Romero, Probation*
- *Jacqueline MacPherson, Sheriff/Coroner*
- *Janet Chun, Auditor-Controller*
- *Myrtle Campos, Social Services Agency*
- *Gregory Mock, Probation*
- *Adele Tagaloo, Registrar of Voters*
- *Robert Dorrough, Auditor-Controller*

Congratulations – your electronic gift certificates can be exchanged at GiftCertificates.com for original gift certificates from hundreds of popular stores, restaurants and much more!



17th Annual Bike To Work Day - May 19



Join other Orange County bicycle riders in making this Bike To Work Day a huge success. Sponsored by the [California Bicycle Coalition](#) and OCTA, this annual event is part of Bike Commute Week, May 16 through 20. There will be many events so be sure to check the [OCTA](#) website for them all, and for your chance to win some great prizes.



Refer-A-Friend Winner!

Congratulations to the winner of the bi-annual "Refer-A-Friend" drawing, **Christina Avila, Registrar of Voters**. She will be receiving \$25 from Gift-Certificates.com.

Do you know a co-worker who might consider ride-sharing? Do they need a gentle push to join a car-pool, 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, and invite them to rideshare with you! Not only will you help them with their commute, you'll also be eligible to win a \$25 gift certificate.

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

Celebrate Earth Day - April 22

The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, motivated 20 million Americans from all walks of life and is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement. Growing out of the first Earth Day, [Earth Day Network](#) works with more than 22,000 partners in 192 countries to broaden, diversify and mobilize the environmental movement. More than one billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.



You can celebrate Earth Day by participating at [local events](#) or pledge on line to do an "act of green" that day. Remember that ridesharing is friendly to the environment too!

Did You Know...

- Ten other things you can do while riding the bus or train are: 1) catch up on work, 2) text, 3) burn calories walking between stations and work, 4) see different sights of the city, 5) read a good book, 6) meditate, 7) talk to another person, 8) take up a hobby like knitting, 9) save money on gasoline, and 10) relax and let someone else deal with driving.
- A new Park & Ride lot recently opened at Mt. San Jacinto College in San Jacinto – the lot is open to carpoolers and vanpoolers, and is free of charge with the required permit. Contact 951-787-7923 for permit information or go to [RCTC](#).
- The northbound I-405, westbound SR22 and 7th Street connector into Long Beach is scheduled to close for one year, starting this month, according to OCTA. It is part of a project to construct two new direct carpool lane connectors, add new carpool lanes and improve overall safety. For construction updates and information on alternate routes go to the [West County Connector Project](#).

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.