



OC Commuter

92% Response to Annual Transportation Survey

Inside this issue:

- New Vanpools Hitting the Road 2
- Vanpool Information Meeting 2
- Commuter Profile 3
- Safety First 3
- Bus / Rail 3
- New Commuter Club Cards 4
- Quarterly Winners Announced 4

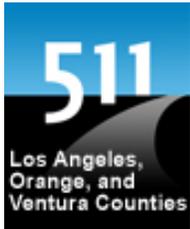
A huge THANK YOU to all employees who completed the annual transportation survey in September. Because of your participation in the survey, we achieved a 92% response rate. Congratulations to all departments for doing a great job!

During the survey week, 51,288 employee trips were made from home to work using 40,730 vehicles making the average vehicle ridership 1.26, slightly above the regional average. More importantly it means that during that one survey week 10,558 trips were eliminated from traffic by ridesharing to work or eliminating commute trips. Using an average round trip of 34 miles, that's more than 358,953 miles reduced in one week -- nearly 19 million in one year. Keep up the great work!

The 2010 survey also revealed that 23% of employees are contributing to reducing cars on the road by carpooling, vanpooling, using public transit, biking, or walking to work. The survey also showed

that more than 12% of employees commute from the Inland Empire, 10% from Los Angeles County, and nearly 20% come from South Orange County (the rest commute within Central Orange County). Ridesharing can be a great option for the long distance commuters.

More good news is that all employees who submitted a survey were entered into a drawing for a \$200 Costco Cash Card. The lucky winner is David Elliott, Community Resources – congratulations!



Stay informed. Click [here](#) to view a short video about using IE511.org.



David Elliott—Survey Drawing Winner

James Eros, with OC Community Resources, is the winner of the California Rideshare Week Photo Contest held in October. James took some great photos of his co-worker, Pamela Waters with her e-car (see Commuter Profile article) and won a \$15 Starbucks gift card -- congratulations James!

Rideshare Week Winning Photos



New Vanpools Hitting the Road...

Several new vanpools began in the last few months, and others are in the preliminary/start-up phase. These vanpool groups are eligible for some great incentives and they help eliminate extra cars from the road. Most are reducing their commuting costs and can leave the driving to the vanpool driver. The carpool/vanpool classifieds listing maintained by the Rideshare office helped in forming these vanpools and is a great resource for finding additional riders as the need arises.

Newest Vanpools:

From Riverside: La Sierra Metrolink Station

Departure: 5:20 AM

To: 2301 N. Glassell, Orange

Approx. Arrival: 5:50 AM

Departure: 3:30 PM

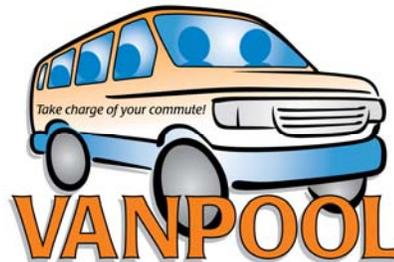
From Corona: North Main Metrolink Station

Departure: 5:30 AM

To: 300 N. Flower St., Santa Ana

Approx. Arrival: 6:10 AM

Departure: 4:30 PM



Vanpool Starting Soon:

From Corona: Magnolia and Ontario Streets

Departure: 5:45 AM

To: 1055 N. Main St., Santa Ana

Approx. Arrival: 6:20 AM

Departure: 4:45 PM

If you are interested in any of these vanpools or starting a new vanpool, check out the Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds – a list of County employees looking for co-workers wanting to carpool or vanpool to work. Find the link on the HR Portal under “General Resources.” To be added to the Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds list, please complete and return the [All-In-One](#) form.

Vanpool Information Meeting

Early in 2011, the Commuter Assistance Program will host a Vanpool Information Meeting. Invitations will be sent to all employees on the Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds. Learn about organizing or joining a vanpool and the following incentives:

- Pay your monthly vanpool fare with pre-tax dollars through the Commuter Choice Payroll Deduction Program for tax savings. Enroll in the program and your first month’s vanpool fare is **free!**
- Lease a vanpool vehicle and form a new vanpool with at least three other County employees and receive a \$300 gift card after the first three months of vanpooling and another \$300 gift card after six months.
- OCTA offers a Vanpool Lease Reduction Program that subsidizes qualified vanpools up to \$400 per month.

For more information, visit our website, contact us at rideshare@ocgov.com or call the Message Center at (714) 647-1931.



Commuter Profile: Pamela Waters and Electric “Zena”

We heard about Pamela Waters when she inquired about how she should complete her transportation survey and asked: “Should I check electric car or motorcycle?” That peaked our interest, so we investigated a little further.

Pamela works for OC Community Resources at the Public Library Headquarters in Santa Ana and has a smile that won’t quit – she’s even happier when she is driving her electric car! When gas was close to \$4 a gallon, she decided to find a vehicle more fuel efficient than her gas-guzzling Buick. She searched the Internet and found the electric Xebra Sedan – or as she likes to call it “Zena.” It’s a fully electric, four-door, three-wheeled vehicle that seats four and goes about 25 miles on a single charge!

We met with Pamela and she took us for an electrifying ride – we zipped around the Civic Center, and I mean zipped – her Xebra is definitely not a golf cart! Riding in it felt like riding in a parade. People were waving and giving us the thumbs up. Co-worker, James Eros even captured her and “Zena” in contest-winning photos (see page one). “It’s just crazy fun to drive,” exclaimed Pam.

Pamela is especially happy with her Xebra because she did her math and learned that it takes less than 4 kilo-

watts to charge “Zena” overnight in her garage. With off-peak rates, it costs approximately \$0.56 for those 4 kilowatts. She also had an optional solar panel added to the car’s roof. That gives her an extra 10-15 miles per charge. “It may look funny, but it really saves me lots of money,” said Pamela.

Besides not having to stop for gas, the Xebra does not use oil – only the brakes and tires need replacing every few years. She also saves space because two of these vehicles fit in a single-car garage! “It is not for everyone,” said Pam, “but if you live close to work, this is the car for you. And just think, if you carpool with a co-worker, you can still charge them for gas!” Hey ... wait a minute!



Pamela Waters and “Zena”

Safety First

The Transportation Corridor Agencies, the public agencies that operate The Toll Roads, would like to remind drivers to please drive slowly and carefully in wet weather conditions.



- To stay up-to-the-minute on driving conditions throughout Orange County, visit www.Sigalert.com.
- For conditions on The Toll Roads, visit www.Facebook.com/TheTollRoads.

Bus / Rail

Get fast, on-line bus or rail routing information—including times, transfers and fees—to anywhere you need to go in Southern California. Simply plug in your start and end locations and what time you want to arrive. You’ll get the best route available...instantly.

Go511.com—trip planning for Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties and lists of local transit providers.

IE511.org—trip planning for the Inland Empire and lists of local transit providers.



New Commuter Club Cards & Discounts

Employees who signed up or renewed their Commuter Club membership through the annual transportation survey process will receive their new Commuter Club card and “thank you for ridesharing” gift by the end of January 2011.

Several new restaurants were recently added to the list of Commuter Club merchants offering discounts, including:

El Pollo Norten

1525 W. First St., Santa Ana
13185 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove
924 S. Beach Blvd., Anaheim
Buy one individual plate and get the 2nd one free at the above locations!

Kerostena Mediterranean Grill

12546 Valley View St., Garden Grove
Free delivery of \$15 or more within 2-mile radius and 10% discount on your entire order.

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.



Quarterly Winners Announced

These winners of the winter Commuter Club quarter drawing will each receive a \$25 gift certificate:

- **Susan Stoffel, OCCR**
- **Honesto Castaneda, Auditor-Controller**
- **Mike Bagwell, OCPW**
- **Josephine Sevilla, OCCR**
- **Dane Clark, SSA**
- **Cynthia Hernandez, HCA**
- **Leticia Munoz, Auditor-Controller**
- **Daisy Corona, HCA**

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

Do you rideshare at least five days per month?

If you do, sign up for the Commuter Club Program. You'll receive your discount card, plus a Starbucks gift card as a sign-up bonus. Commuter Club members are also eligible for quarterly drawings and much more! To sign up, complete the [All-In-One](#) application.



From the Commuter Assistance Program Staff

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.