

# Human Resources

## Rideshare



### County Commuter Newsletter



#### All Employee Transportation Survey

It's almost that time again! Each September all 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 it also highlights commuting trends and ways to enhance the rideshare program.

It is also an opportunity for employees to request a carpool match list, a complimentary one-day bus or train ticket, and for current rideshare participants to register or renew their commitment to rideshare for which they will receive a small thank you gift.

Be sure to look for an e-mail message next week with the link to the on-line survey. A paper version of the survey will be made available to those employees who do not have easy access to a computer.

All employees must complete the survey by September 30, 2008 even if they drive alone or do not report to work during the survey week. Employees that complete the survey will have a chance to win a \$200 gasoline gift card!!



#### Carpooling Made Easy

What is a carpool and how does it work? A carpool is two or more people sharing the ride in a personal vehicle, typically taking turns driving or splitting costs related to gasoline and direct expenses like parking and toll road fees. Most carpools are formed at the work site; it is just a matter of finding a carpool partner, setting some guidelines and hitting the road. Click [here](#) for a carpool discussion checklist.

#### Concerned about being stranded without a car?

If you have an emergency on a day that you rideshare, you can use the "Guaranteed Ride Home" service to request a free taxi or rental car. Click [here](#) for the guidelines and required form.

#### Want help finding a carpool partner?

When possible, commuters like to carpool with co-workers, neighbors, friends or family. However if you are having trouble finding someone who shares the same commuting needs, here are three places to start:

1. Click [here](#) for the "Carpool Classifieds", a list of County employees that are also looking for fellow employees that want to carpool. Look for your home city or neighboring cities and note the reference number of those with a similar commute. Send an e-mail to [rideshare@ocgov.com](mailto:rideshare@ocgov.com) to request the contact details based on reference

number.

2. You can also be added to the "Carpool Classifieds." Click [here](#) for the form used to register. By registering, you will automatically receive a list of fellow employees commuting from your area that also want to carpool.
3. For a broader search, you may want to access the regional database that includes commuters from neighboring employers. Go to [www.ridematch.info](http://www.ridematch.info) or call 1-800-266-6883.

## New Informational Rideshare Events

- **Lunchtime Rideshare Information Tables** - Learn more about ridesharing. Stop by to talk to the Commuter Assistance Program staff at a "traveling" **Lunchtime Rideshare Information Table**. Pick up registration forms, transit schedules and perhaps a ride-match list. A limited number of one or two-day transit passes will be available.
- **Lunch and Learn Presentations** - Learn more about the benefits and services available to County employees who want to take the bus, carpool, vanpool, take the train, bike or walk to work. Attend a one-hour Lunch and Learn Presentation to hear from Commuter Assistance Program staff and transit experts. The next Lunch and Learn Presentation is scheduled for September 18, 2008 in the Board Planning Room, Hall of Administration from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- **New Hire Orientation** - Attend a **New Hire Orientation** and you will also learn about the Commuter Assistance Program.

Click [here](#) for the locations and times for all three of the above events.



## Metrolink Discount Weekend Fun

With [Metrolink Weekends](#) it's fun and easy to enjoy weekend entertainment, family outings, shopping and dining without the traffic and parking hassles. Just hop aboard a comfortable Metrolink train on Saturday or Sunday and let your adventures begin. And, Metrolink's weekend fares are 25% off regular weekday rates. Bring the family along – up to three children ages 5 and under ride FREE with each fare-paying adult. And great news for Metrolink monthly pass holders – you get to ride FREE on weekends, when you take the train for travel between your origin station and selected destination during the month.

What can you do on Metrolink Weekends? Here are some ideas:

- Leave South Orange County in the morning and spend the day antiques in Old Towne Orange or Fullerton. Board the train home in the late afternoon
- Take the 1:18 p.m. Metrolink train from Fullerton to San Juan Capistrano and spend the afternoon at the Mission or the historic Los Rios district. Then catch the 6:08 p.m. train for your return trip to Fullerton arriving at 6:51 p.m.
- Visit Olvera Street – leave South Orange County in the morning and spend the day in Downtown Los Angeles. Take your choice of returning trains at 4:30 p.m. or 8:45 p.m.

For more ideas and to make it easy to plan your outings, Metrolink has created a new website that provides information on how to plan your trip, purchase your ticket and it's jam-packed with ideas on places to visit, entertainment venues and things to do – all reachable by [Metrolink Weekends](#) services.

## Bring-A-Friend Promotion Results

In May, we encouraged Metrolink and OCTA riders to help their co-workers learn how easy it is to take the train or bus to work. In exchange for their efforts, they were entered into a drawing to win a \$100 gift certificate. The winner of the \$100 gift certificate was Ron Lemas, who brought Alan Gordon along on the Metrolink train from San Juan Capistrano to Santa Ana. Alan said, "The Metrolink is fast, relaxing and simple to use! Not what I expected at all!" Congratulations Ron!

Visit the [Metrolink](#) website to view routes, schedules and fares or call 800-371-LINK. Visit the [OCTA](#) website for the same type of information. Learn how you can purchase your monthly transit tickets through the payroll deduction process with pre-tax dollars using the [Voluntary Payroll Deduction Form](#).

### A Day In The Life... by Dane Clark

At 4:30 a.m. my alarm clock rings and I quickly rise and head for the shower, any lingering will upset the balance of my universe (or I'll go back to sleep).

I get dressed into bike wear . I go downstairs and turn on the coffee maker, take daily vitamins, and drink a high-protein-low-carb shake.



At 5:15 a.m. I wake my wife and head to the garage, grab my bicycle and head out for work (on the road by 5:30 a.m.). I have several routes which vary from 21.5 to 26 miles. My commute takes me from Laguna Hills (La Paz & 5 freeway) to Santa Ana (1st and Walnut).

The morning air is cool and refreshing--traffic practically non-existent. I see few other bike riders, usually no more than 6 or 7, we greet each other with a nod or wave. Few words are spoken and occasionally a brief race ensues, just to liven up the ride. Being 61 years old I usually surprise them by keeping up or at least staying on their wheel (being in the draft eases the effort).

My route winds through neighborhoods and onto main thoroughfares with an occasional bike trail for convenience. I see the same people waiting for buses or carpools and am greeted with a wave. I'm too early for the pesky dogs or they discover my presence too late to chase.

As I leave Tustin and enter Santa Ana city limits the street conditions get bad to very bad. I have learned which roads are the best for skinny tires. I pass the Civic Center on Santa Ana Blvd and head farther west to Raitt (quite possibly the worst section of pavement in OC--maybe California). I'm almost there--1/2 mile and I turn right on Walnut and into the parking lot of CRO (Central Regional Office for Social Services Agency).

I'm fortunate that I can park my bike inside near my work station. I change into my work clothes and another day has begun. I'm buzzed from endorphins and ready for all challenges.

## Commuter Club Quarterly Drawing Winners

We're happy to announce the lucky Commuter Club Drawing winners. Each quarter, we draw eight (8) names from the list of registered rideshare participants and they win a \$25 gift certificate! This quarter's winners are:

*Joan Villanueva, OCHRD  
Emilia Ramirez, DA's Office  
Melissa Nakahara, HCA  
Jay Hosey, OC Public Works*

*Demetrio Botello, SSA  
Brooke de Baca, Media Rel  
Yurilia Montoya, SSA/ASAP  
Dorena Safiebieg, SSA*

They have each won a gift certificate redeemable through GiftCertificates.com, where they can select from over 20 merchants!

Do you rideshare at least five days per month? If so, be sure to sign up for the [Commuter Club](#). Members receive a \$15 Starbucks Card at signup, discounts at local events, an annual thank you gift and are eligible for the quarterly drawings.



### Google For Transit

[Google Transit Maps](#) just keeps getting better! They recently added little transit stop icons (for bus and train stops) which you can see if you zoom in. If you click on an icon, it will tell you what bus or train stops there, and in some cities, the map will even tell you the near-term schedule. Where there are lots of buses at one stop, you'll get a list of lines--click on that line and you see another pop-up with a list of schedules.

### Did You Know?

- Beginning January 1, 2009, all new cars sold in California will carry a label that informs consumers of the state's assessment of the vehicle's environmental impact, according to the California Air Resources Board. Labels will provide two scores on a scale from 1-10: a smog score and a global warming score. The average new car will score a five on both scales--the higher the score, the less impact the car has on our environment.
- If you are trying to save money on gas, you might want to slow down, say experts. In a typical family sedan, every 10 miles per hour you drive over 60 is like the price of gasoline going up about 54 cents a gallon, according to a fuel economy theory tested by engineers at Consumer Reports magazine. This is because pushing air around your car at highway speeds takes up about 40% of a car's energy--and the faster you go, the harder your car has to work. The increase is exponential, meaning wind resistance rises much more steeply between 70 and 80 mph than it does between 50 and 60 mph.

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