



OC RIDESHARE PROGRAM

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New Park & Ride Lots

Two new Park & Ride lots are open in Rancho Cucamonga:

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church at 6140 N Haven Avenue – conveniently located north of the 210 Freeway at the Haven Avenue exit with the entrance off Banyan Street, includes 66 parking spaces in the lot across the street from the church.

Community Baptist Church at 9090 19th Street – located off the 210 Freeway at the Carnelian Street exit at 19th Street and Beryl Street, includes 25 parking spaces.

Human Resource Services



OC Commuter

Winter 2013

Ready to Ride Share? These New Incentives Will Get You in Gear!

It's a new year and the OC Rideshare Program has a new name, a new logo and some new incentives and rewards. If you haven't tried ridesharing, now is the time! Just check out all of the new features just for County of Orange and Superior Court employees!

The new, improved **Commuter Choice Program** still helps you purchase bus, train or vanpool fares with pretax dollars through the payroll deduction process to lower your taxable income. Only now the pretax maximum is **\$245** per month instead of \$125 per month for even higher savings for you. Also, Commuter Choice participants may be eligible for the revised startup incentive. Now, when you sign up for the first time to purchase monthly fares through the payroll deduction process you will receive an e-mail with a link to GiftCertificates.com where you can retrieve an e-Card of your choice. The amount, between \$30 and \$100, will be based on the type of ticket purchased and will be distributed after the second month of participation in the Commuter Choice Program.

Also with the New Year comes a big change to the **Commuter Club Program**. It is now called **Club Rideshare** and current Commuter Club members are automatically transferred over to it. **Club Rideshare** members will receive a new, special monthly e-blast previewing discounts, alerts and fun things for rideshare participants. These announcements will also appear on an exclusive web page. But that is not all! Rather than eight winners of the quarterly drawings for \$25 e-Cards, we will select three winners each month. We even plan some special events and contests only for **Club Rideshare** members.

Club Rideshare includes a new startup incentive for new, eligible registrants. When you register and track at least 20 rideshare days you will receive an e-mail with a link to GiftCertificates.com where you can retrieve a \$30 e-Card of your choice. The signup incentive under the old program was a \$15 Starbucks Card.



Try-Transit-On-Us replaces Try-the-Bus/Train-On-Us and is much easier to use. Simply purchase a one-day pass on any public transit and use it to commute to work. Send us your receipt and we will reimburse you.

It is effortless using the newly revised <u>All-in-One</u> form, now available on-line and in the display racks located in many of the larger buildings (see locations listed on the rideshare web pages). The OC Rideshare Program Guidelines has all the details.

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New Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds List



During the Annual Transportation Survey and throughout the year, employees update or add their commute information to the on-line Carpool/Vanpool Classi-

fieds List. The Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds List is sorted by home city and work location and shows only the first names and work phone numbers of interested coworkers – home addresses are never listed. The new list is now available for your review and to verify your previously submitted information. Please log onto the County's HR Portal for the link to the Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds List located under the General Resources heading.

If you are not listed, and would you like help finding a fellow employee to carpool with, you can be added to the Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds listing. Please complete the "Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds" section of the <u>All-in-One</u> form.

Quarterly Winners Announced

These are the final eight quarterly winners from the old Commuter Club. From now on, three winners will be randomly selected each month from the Club Rideshare members. Each winner will receive a \$25 e-Card. The final quarterly winners are:

- Lynne Bailey, Social Services Agency
- Adriano Davila, Probation
- Kevin Logan, Superior Court
- Melanie Rawlins, Social Services Agency
- Cecilia Ruiz, Sheriff/Coroner
- Thida Tapia, Sheriff/Coroner
- Renee Chinchilla, Board of Supervisors
- William Gibson, Sheriff/Coroner

Congratulations – your e-Card can be exchanged at GiftCertificates.com for gift certificates from hundreds of popular stores, restaurants and much more.

Are you ridesharing but not yet registered in Club Rideshare? All you have to do is complete the All-In-One application.

Successful OC Rideshare Week

The numbers are in! Nearly 4,000 commuters gave up driving solo and shared the ride during Rideshare Week, October 1 through 5 and 109 of the commuters were County of Orange employees!

Rideshare Week is a part of OCTA's Share the Ride program, aimed at helping commuters find efficient, environmentally friendly and cost effective ways to commute to work. The program, sponsored by the Orange County Transportation Authority, can help commuters find a vanpool, plan a trip by bus or train and find a carpool partner. Commuters who pledged to participate in Rideshare Week had a chance to win a variety of prizes including iPads, gift cards to the Irvine Spectrum, movie tickets and bike gear. Winners were notified by OCTA on October 31, 2012.

The OC Rideshare Program also recognized our 109 commuters by randomly selecting a County of Orange employee to win a \$25 e-Card. Congratulations to *Troy Sleeth*, Assessors Office, who carpooled 200 miles in four days that week.



43rd Anniversary of Earth Day—April 22!

On April 22, more than one billion people around the world will take part in the 43rd

Anniversary of Earth Day. From Beijing to Cairo, Melbourne to London, Madrid to Johannesburg, Rio to New York, communities worldwide will voice their concerns for the planet, and take action to help protect it. In the face of unprecedented occurrences of extreme weather, loss of species, and pollution, it is more important than ever that everyone does their part to help protect the planet.

What are you doing for Earth Day? Send us an email at rideshare@ocgov.com and tell us what you are planning to do for Earth Day. We'll list some of your comments in the next newsletter and together we can inspire change and help make a difference. Find more details at Earth Day 2013.

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New Year - New Vanpool Incentives - Act Now!

What are some of your resolutions for 2013? If saving money is one of them, then starting a new vanpool group may be the answer.

Regional vanpool companies typically offer "New Year" promotions to entice commuters to start new vanpools. For example, the first month's lease could be waived or a special service could be included. Act now since these special promotions are only for new vanpool groups started before March 31, 2013!

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

- Check out the Carpool/Vanpool Classifieds List on the County's HR Portal under General Resources
- 2. Get commitments from at least five potential riders
- 3. Contact both of the regional vanpool service providers: vRide or Enterprise
- 4. Set up a vanpool formation meeting with their friendly account reps and your potential riders. The OC Rideshare Program office staff can help coordinate this for you. The vanpool service provider will also help you apply for the OCTA-funded lease reduction program of up to \$400 per month!
- 5. Once you lease the van, your selected vanpool service provider will arrange for its delivery, and you will be ready to go!

More good news! Any employee that leases a vanpool vehicle and forms a vanpool group with at least three other County of Orange employees will receive a \$300 e-Card after the vanpool has been on the road for three months. After six months you'll receive another \$300 e-Card! Complete the Start-A-Vanpool application available on-line.

So what are you waiting for – start your money-saving New Year's resolution by vanpooling! If you are currently a vanpool rider,



you already know the benefits. Isn't it great to leave the driving to someone else, enjoy the carpool lanes and purchase your vanpool fare with pre-tax dollars? You bet it is!

First Vanpool Webinar Held

OCTA hosted a Vanpool Webinar exclusively for County of Orange long-distance commuters in February. To view the handouts, click <u>here</u>.



VANPOOL

Topics covered included:

- How a modern vanpool works
- Benefits and features
- Costs and potential savings
- Local and Federal incentives and subsidies
- Forming a group and getting on the road

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OCTA Fare Increases



The OCTA Board of Directors approved new bus fares, effective February 10, 2013. The last fare increase occurred four years ago. To view all of the new fares, click here.

With these changes, OCTA has also developed several ways for customers to save on the cost of bus riding. There will be a new 5-ride pass for \$9, which is only \$1.80 per ride. This pass will be a pre-paid pass available at all OCTA pass sales locations.

The pass will be similar to current OCTA pre-paid passes, BUT instead of swiping the pass upon boarding, customers will dip the pass in the fare box each time they board the bus. After the pass has been dipped in the fare box five times, the pass will be expired and no longer usable. The benefits of this pass are a 10 percent discount per boarding and that the rides do not have to be consecutive rides or days.

OCTA customers will be able to purchase pre-paid one day passes at a 10 percent discount making them only \$4.50 and are also available at all OCTA pass sales locations. Previously, the one-day pre-paid passes

were only available in books of 10 for the discount.

County of Orange employees that take public transit to work can request an annual OCTA E-Pass and pay for it through monthly payroll deductions with pre-tax dollars, thus reducing their taxable income. The E-Pass eliminates the need to have cash or make a trip to a store to buy a pass. To sign up, simply complete the Voluntary Payroll Deduction Authorization form.

Metrolink Updates



Text4Next for Metrolink Schedules

Text4Next is a new quick and convenient way to confirm Metrolink train schedules on the go.

Text4Next is the easy way to receive scheduled Metrolink train schedules by texting from your cell phone. All you do is send a text message to 628246, enter the keyword "train," enter your beginning station details and your ending station details and hit send. You will receive a text message back with

the Metrolink train number and arrival time for the next three scheduled trains based on the time your text message was sent. This service is a pilot program and is currently available for the three Metrolink lines in Orange County (OC, IEOC and 91 Lines). For a list of station details, click here. With Text4Next you can get train information 24 hours a day. Go ahead-try it now!

Fullerton Station Expansion

Thanks to a recent expansion of the busiest Metrolink station, finding a parking space is no longer a nightmare. The Fullerton Transportation Center recently added 300 spaces to its parking structure. The station, located at 120 E. Santa Fe Ave (near Harbor Blvd.), now has 1,321 spaces with 9 handicapped

spaces. There is a 72 hour max limit in the parking structure that is located on the west side of the station. The City of Fullerton is not currently charging for parking, but once the City sets the rates they will place notices with the date for the new rates to go into effect.

OCLInk Pass Update

Starting May 15, 2013, OCLink passes can only be purchased from Metrolink ticket vending machines (TVM) in Orange County and onboard all OCTA buses. Prepaid OCLink passes that were purchased from the OCTA store, online, by mail, by phone, and at Ralphs or Vons will only be accepted on Metrolink trains and OCTA buses through June 30, 2013.

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Did You Know...

Do you live in Riverside or San Bernardino County? If you have been ridesharing (carpooling, vanpooling or taking the bus or Metrolink) to work for three months or more and do so at least one day a week, you could be eligible for RidesharePlus. Membership

entitles you to an Entertainment coupon book full of savings and access to a members-only website where you can print even more coupons from over 135,000 merchants!



The 2013 RidesharePlus Entertainment Books are now available for renewing Rideshare Plus members. If you have not received your email renewal notice for the RidesharePlus Rewards Program, offered by Riverside County Transportation Commission and the

San Bernardino Associated Governments, please call 1-866-RIDESHARE (1-866-743-3742).

Staying Safe Around the Tracks

It's important to be careful around railroad tracks. Here's why:

- Trains can come from either direction at any time.
- Trains can travel up to 90 mph.
- Trains are not required to sound their horns in quiet zones.
- A train could still be approaching even if you don't see the engine.
- It can take more than half-mile for a train to stop.
- Trains are twice as wide as the tracks.
- Nearly 80 deaths occurred in California from train-related accidents between January and October 2011.

This is illegal and extremely dangerous!

Follow these simple tips to be smart around trains:

- Stay off the tracks. Being on or near the tracks is trespassing.
- Only cross tracks at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings.
- It's important to stop, look and listen for trains.
- Pay attention to and don't ignore warning signs like the gate, flashing lights and other precautions.
- Always <u>stand behind the line</u> while waiting on the platform for the train at the station.
- Never try to beat a train, and make sure your vehicle can completely clear the crossing without stopping.

Depending upon your department's internal policy, social media links might not be available

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The OC Commuter Newsletter is published by the OC Rideshare Program Office managed by Human Resource Services. Our mission is to distribute commuter information to all County of Orange and Superior Court employees so that they can make informed decisions about how they travel to work. For more information about the OC Rideshare Program, please go to the web site.