



Human Resources Rideshare



OC Commuter

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Annual Transportation Survey Time

Each September all County and Superior Court employees are asked to complete a brief survey of how they commute to work for a week. The survey is a requirement of a local regulation but it also reveals commuting trends and helps us develop new programs to enhance the rideshare program.

A preliminary look at the survey data shows that approximately 1% of our commutes originate in San Diego County, 3% in San Bernardino County, 9% in Riverside County, 10% in Los Angeles County, 20% in South OC, 24% in North OC, and 33% in Central Orange County.

The survey is also an opportunity for employees to request a carpool match list, a complimentary one-day bus or train pass, and for current rideshare participants to register or renew their commitment to rideshare, for which they will receive a thank you gift. In fact, we received comments from 250 employees and nearly 2,000 requested one or more of the commuter assistance options available through the survey. Over 500 employees will soon be added to the carpool/vanpool classifieds listing and 400 want to "Try Transit".

Thanks to all employees who completed the annual transportation survey. All employees who completed the survey by the deadline were entered into a random drawing – this year's winner for the \$200 gift card is Anne Selin with the District Attorney's office. Congratulations!

New Commuter Club Discount Cards will soon be distributed for 2012

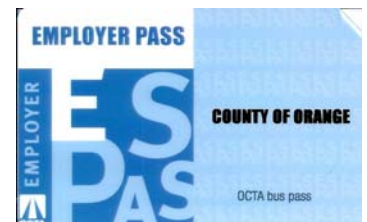
OCTA E-Pass Renewal

Employees who use the OCTA E-Pass to ride the bus will soon receive a new swipe card valid from November 2011 through October 2012, so be sure to watch for your new pass in the mail.

Are YOU ready to take the bus to work? The OCTA E-Pass program is a great value at only \$1 per ride and can never go over \$55 per month. It eliminates the need for cash or to make a trip to a store to buy a bus pass.

You can use your E-Pass for your work commute and for personal use on any OCTA local bus route. All you do is swipe the card through the farebox and OCTA's system summarizes the monthly usage. At the end of the

month, you will see a deduction on your paycheck for the rides taken the prior month. This is managed through the **Commuter Choice Program** that lets you pay for transit fares with pre-tax dollars for an even greater savings by reducing your taxable income.



To sign up, simply complete the Voluntary Payroll Deduction Authorization [Form](#) and we'll take care of the rest for you.

Rideshare Booth Draws a Crowd

The Commuter Assistance Program staff hosted a Rideshare Booth at the 2011 OCEA Health Fair on October 4.

Ridesharing is healthy because it can help reduce the stress of commuting and increases exercise for those who include walking or biking in their commute.

We hope you stopped by and gave our prize wheel a spin, won a prize and picked up information about all of the great services and incentives that the Commuter Assistance Program offers to all County of Orange and Superior Court employees.



Rideshare Booth at 2011 OCEA Health Fair

Metrolink Rider Celebrates 14 Years

Shortly after Ronald Margheim began working for the Orange County Health Care Agency's IT Department in 1997, he discovered the many advantages of commuting via Metrolink train. "I live in the Inland Empire," explained Ron, "and soon decided that I would have less stress if I gave up my daily 'fight' with traffic." He did and has never regretted it. He added that his family appreciates him arriving home relaxed and eager to spend time with them.

Early-riser Ron catches the train in Riverside at 5:12 am. His train commute takes 57 minutes, and after arriving in Santa Ana he takes the free OCLINK bus that shuttles him to his office on Sycamore where he starts work at 6:15 am. The best part is he arrives at work relaxed and in a great mood. Ron credits his HCA-IT Management for giving him and

other train riders the flexibility that they sometimes need in order to take the train.

An avid fan for Metrolink, Ron never misses a chance to share the benefits of ridesharing with his coworkers from the Inland Empire. He lets them know about the free 2-day pass that the Commuter Assistance Program gives to any employee interested in trying the train. And tells them how he saves even more by purchasing his monthly pass with pre-tax dollars!

Some people have asked: "What if you need your car for an emergency while at work?" Ron said he couldn't recall a time in 14 years that he needed to rush home for an emergency, except when his wife was ready to have a baby. But he drove in to work for a few days until the baby

was born. Of course, he could have used the Guaranteed Ride Home program that time too.

We calculated that in the past 14 years, besides the savings to the environment, Ron has saved approximately \$48,000 in commuting costs and reduced 193,536 miles on his vehicles. Thank you, Ron!



Ron Margheim, HCA-IT



Metrolink Updates

Bicycle Storage Space Added to Railcars

As part of a new pilot program, Metrolink has added ten "bicycle cars" – passenger railcars that are specially designed with space for at least 18 bicycles, rather than the two slots on other Metrolink railcars. To accommodate the additional bicycles, 29 passenger seats were removed from the bottom level of one of its railcars that traditionally seats up to 149 people.

The bicycle cars will be part of the Inland Empire line where the demand for additional bicycle storage space is the highest. Bright yellow decals identify the new bicycle cars.



Shhh. Quiet Cars Are Here!



One passenger railcar on every weekday Metrolink train is now designated as a Quiet Car offering some peace and quiet for riders that prefer an almost noiseless commute. No loud talking, music, cell/smart phones or electronic devices that can be heard by others will be allowed on the Quiet Cars.

Riders who prefer to socialize or do business while on the train are encouraged to do so – just not on the new Quiet Car. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, and riders are asked to be mindful of the limited availability of seating and place their belongings below the seat or in their lap to allow as many riders as possible to take advantage of the new, free option.

The Quiet Car is always the second railcar away from the locomotive on each train. Conductors and Metrolink customer service representatives will help you locate it.



Metrolink Rewards

Get your reward! Metrolink has partnered with several merchants and entertainment venues to offer discounts for Metrolink riders. Included are theme parks, movie tickets, museums, dinner shows, restaurants and great shopping from San Diego to San Francisco! Some of the special deals require that you register or download and print a coupon from www.metrolinkrewards.com or just show your Metrolink ticket/pass to get the discount.

Try the Train on Us

Are YOU ready to start riding Metrolink to work? Sign up for the "[Try the Train on Us](#)" incentive. We'll send you a complimentary 2-day ticket good on any Metrolink line. Check out the train routes, connecting bus routes and schedules at www.Metrolinktrains.com. If you like taking the train, sign up to purchase the monthly pass through the "[Commuter Choice](#)" program to receive the first month free. With this program, you are allowed to purchase with pre-tax dollars up to \$230 per month for even more savings.

Commuter Club Quarterly Winners!

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

- **Gabriel Rivera**, Sheriff/Coroner
- **Stephanie Jones**, Sheriff/Coroner
- **Evelyn Yambao**, Social Services Agency
- **Lupie Janos**, Social Services Agency
- **Jazmin Mejia**, Health Care Agency
- **Misty Grijalva**, Probation
- **Leslie Daniels**, Health Care Agency
- **Ed Argersinger**, Sheriff/Coroner



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 Auto Zone, Regal Entertainment Group, Macy's, Staples, Sephora, Bed, Bath & Beyond and Outback Steakhouse to name just a few!

Are you ridesharing at least five days per month? Then you too can become a member of the Commuter Club! Just complete the [All-In-One](#) application and we'll send you a Commuter Club card plus a new member sign-up gift. Register today!

Refer-A-Friend Winner!

Congratulations to **Josephine Sevilla**, *OC Parks* - the winner of the bi-annual "Refer-A-Friend" drawing. She will receive 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 all the benefits of ridesharing and the Commuter Club. And show them the benefits by inviting them to rideshare with you! Not only will you help with their commute but you'll be eligible to win a \$25 certificate. Click [here](#) for the "Refer-A-Friend" form.



OCTA Updates



The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) has launched "Woo Woo Fridays," an exciting concept that provides Metrolink riders with great deals and fun on the last Friday of each month. OCTA will select a random Metrolink station and arrange for discounts and special offers near that destination. Once riders

arrive at the station, they can show their Metrolink pass to receive special deals at the participating nearby locations.

The first event took place on September 30 near the Fullerton Metrolink station at The Slidebar Rock-N-Roll Kitchen. The restaurant offered a free Zebrahead concert. In addition, free OCLINK train passes were also given away to the first 100 people who arrived at the station!

For more information about Woo Woo Fridays, train departure/arrival times, visit www.octa.net/fridays.

Guaranteed Ride Home Program

The Guaranteed Ride Home Program is the ridesharing employee’s safety net in an emergency. This program has helped several of our employees who commute by bus, Metrolink, carpool or vanpool with a quick way home or to a child’s school in an emergency.

When an emergency occurs, employees can quickly download the Guaranteed Ride Home Authorization [Form](#), read the guidelines, complete the form and call the number listed. They will receive an approval code and phone numbers of pre-selected taxi services based on the employee’s worksite location. This service is free to all rideshare participants.



Did You Know...

- Now you can access live traffic, transit and travel information for free anywhere in Southern California by dialing 511 from your cell phone or online at www.Go511.com. You will get instant access to traffic conditions including free traveler information service that gives you live traffic reports, transit planning and commuter information. Use the system to get real-time traffic speeds, traffic alerts, view live traffic cameras, plan a trip on a bus or train, and even find a carpool or vanpool partner. You can also find bike maps, learn how to take your bike on a bus or train, get information on bike safety, or check the weather in your neighborhood or any other city in Southern California! Check it out today.
- You can see if public transit is an option for your commute to work by visiting [Google Transit](#). Or, find out if there is a vanpool that accommodates your commute. A vanpool is like a large carpool, where 5-15 people meet at specific locations, like Park & Ride lots, and ride in a van to work. The cost is shared by the riders, and can save you a lot of money, especially as gas prices rise. See if there is a vanpool for you by clicking [here](#).
- Sharing the ride can save you up to 75% on the cost of your commute. Calculate how much you can save by entering your commute information on OCTA’s cost savings calculator at <http://www.octa.net/str/co2calculator.aspx>. The calculator will compute the average daily cost of your commute considering the distance, your vehicle’s miles per gallon, the cost of gas and more.



[View video](#)

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.