

# ONTHEGO

## News for Your Employees

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## 8 Tips for Getting Vanpools Rolling



Carpools often start up informally, with two people who live and work near each other deciding to share the ride. Vanpools may require a bit more planning to get rolling—but it’s easier than you think to get a vanpool started.

The good news: One vanpool can take as many as 14 vehicles off the road.

In a vanpool, riders regularly commute together in a leased van, splitting expenses. It’s ideal for people who commute 20 or more miles and work a fairly consistent schedule.

Here, your county transportation agencies offer tips to get vanpools underway:

### 1. Host a “meet and greet” for potential vanpoolers.

Use your survey data to generate lists of people who live and work near each other and work a similar schedule. Then invite them to a get-together in person or online to explain how vanpooling works and see if they’d be interested in joining one.

Invite a vanpool leasing vendor (such as Enterprise) who can give monthly fare estimates and sign people up on the spot.

### 2. Start small.

If the idea of getting a vanpool program underway sounds daunting, aim to start small, such as with one 7-passenger van.

[Continued on page 2](#) →

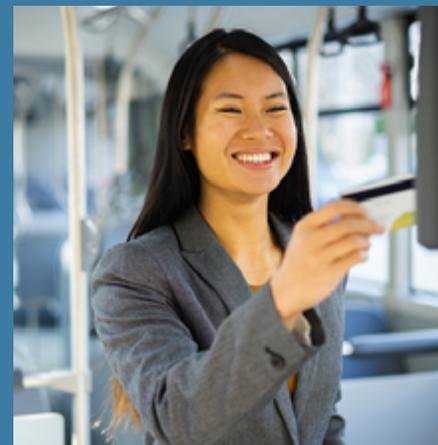
## Metro and Omnitrans Now Offer Fare Capping

### Making Pay-As-You-Ride Transit More Equitable and Affordable

As of July 1, Metro switched to “fare capping”—a new way to pay fares that makes it easier and more affordable to ride bus and rail. Omnitrans transit in San Bernardino adopted this fare system in summer of 2022.

With fare capping, the more you ride, the more you save. Rides are free once you meet the daily or weekly fare cap—even when paying per-ride.

That means now when riding Metro, you’ll never pay more than \$5 in a day or \$18 within seven days. This is less than the regular price



[Continued on page 3](#) →



-  [Calendar of Events](#)
-  [Download Commuter News](#)
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## 8 Tips for Vanpools

*continued from page 1*

Depending on where your worksite is located, vanpoolers may be able to qualify for monthly subsidies with as little as 50% ridership.

Of course, the more seats that are filled, the lower the fares—but vanpoolers can still enjoy a cheaper, less stressful commute even if every seat isn't filled and/or they're in a smaller van.

**THE GOOD NEWS: ONE VANPOOL CAN TAKE AS MANY AS 14 VEHICLES OFF THE ROAD.**

### 3. Expand your search to include Park & Ride lots along the route.

Don't have enough employees who live close to each other to vanpool? Draw a route between the furthest small grouping of employees' homes and your worksite. Then look for Park & Ride lots along the way where additional riders can be picked up.

### 4. Work with management to allow employees to flex schedules.

Ask management if they'd be willing to allow some flexibility to employees' schedules if it means they could join a vanpool. Be sure to let managers know if your worksite is required to meet rideshare minimums to meet air-quality mandates. That could be a motivating factor for them to cooperate.



### 5. Promote cost-saving benefits like subsidies and use of express lanes.

Vanpoolers in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties may qualify for monthly subsidies toward the cost of vanpooling—as much as \$700 per month per qualifying vanpool in some areas.

Express toll lanes on the 10, 110, 91 and 15 freeways allow carpools and vanpools to ride free or at a discount, provided they meet passenger minimums. Saving time on the commute without having to pay tolls is a huge incentive to ditch the solo drive.



### 6. Provide preferred parking, if possible.

As an added incentive, designate parking spaces nearest the worksite for vanpools (and carpools if possible). If parking is competitive, this can be a tempting incentive.

### 7. Allow hybrid workers to “share” a seat.

In order for vanpooling to be cost-effective, employees should be able to ride most days. With hybrid schedules more common than ever before, employees may not be riding into the office often enough for it to be financially worthwhile.

That said, two employees may be able to split the cost of a seat on the vanpool if they come into work on different days—similar to a work share situation.

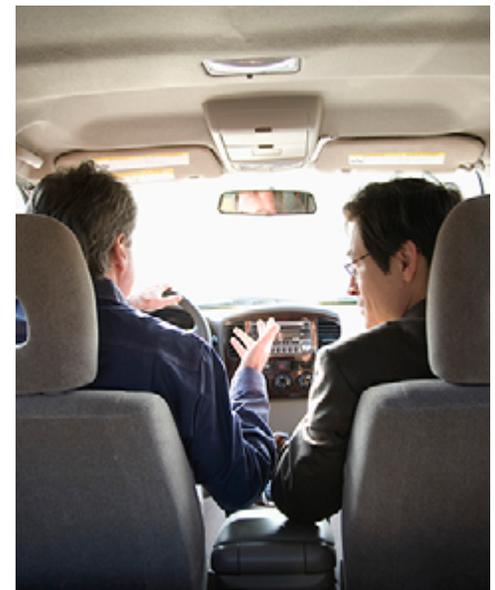
### 8. Help with posting seat vacancies to keep existing vanpools going.

Schedules change and people may need to drop out of a vanpool. Help vanpoolers identify potential riders to fill any vacant seats so fares don't go up or the vanpool ridership doesn't drop too low to qualify for subsidies.

#### For more information on vanpooling:

- Los Angeles County: [metro.net/vanpool](http://metro.net/vanpool)
- Orange County: [octa.net/vanpool](http://octa.net/vanpool)
- Riverside/San Bernardino counties: [IECommuter.org/vanpool](http://IECommuter.org/vanpool)
- Ventura County: [goventura.org](http://goventura.org)

**VANPOOLERS MAY QUALIFY FOR MONTHLY SUBSIDIES TOWARD THE COST OF VANPOOLING—AS MUCH AS \$700 PER MONTH PER QUALIFYING VANPOOL IN SOME AREAS.**



## Don't Go It Alone

When it comes to running a rideshare program, you don't have to go it alone. Connecting with other employee transportation coordinators (ETCs) is a great way to exchange ideas and join forces on events. Here's how:

### Attend the World's Largest Gathering of Transportation Demand Management Pros.



The Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) International Conference is July 30-Aug. 2, and this year the conference is on the west coast in Seattle, WA.

Connect with other ETCs at networking events and with activities such as guided bike and kayaking tours.

Workshops cover a variety of topics from managing hybrid workers to using technology and incentives to increase ridesharing.

Get event details at [actweb.org](http://actweb.org).

### Join an ETC Network.

ETC networks bring ETCs together—in person or online—to exchange ideas and information. See the Calendar (starting on pg. 7) to find a network near you.

### Sign Up for Training.

Your county rideshare agencies offer free workshops that give you tools for your rideshare program and a chance to meet other ETCs.

- IE Commuter Office Hours are no-cost monthly online, interactive workshops on topics of interest to ETCs in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The next workshop is Wednesday, July 12, 10-11 a.m. To sign up, email [info@iecommuter.org](mailto:info@iecommuter.org).
- Commuter Options & Regulatory Compliance Support offers free, online ETC Briefings where Los Angeles area employers can learn about the transportation survey process and connect with rideshare experts. The next briefing is July 11, 9:30-11:30 a.m. To sign up, send an email to [SharedMobility@metro.net](mailto:SharedMobility@metro.net)
- Workshops are also held quarterly for ETCs in Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura counties. Invitations are sent via email, or check future issues of *On the Go*.



## Changes May Be Coming to Rule 2202

If your worksite is required to meet South Coast AQMD's Rule 2202 mandates, changes may be coming.

Proposed amendments would require regulated worksites to report vehicle miles traveled (VMT) data, telecommute activity and business type/classification for the worksite, among other changes.

The South Coast AQMD expects to post the list of proposed amendments by July 5 at [aqmd.gov](http://aqmd.gov).

The agency's board is expected to review amendments at its Aug. 4 meeting.

## Fare Capping

*continued from page 1*

of Metro's regular 1-Day and 7-Day passes, which are being replaced with fare capping.

The fare for Reduced Fare customers is even less and varies.

Here's how it works:

- To take advantage of fare capping, riders need to pay fares with a TAP card.
- Load Stored Value (money) on a tap card to pay per ride. Metro bus fare for buses and trains remains \$1.75 and includes two hours of free one-way transfers on Metro.
- Once the 1-Day or 7-Day cap is reached, rides are free. When tapping on the bus fareboxes or TAP validators at rail stations, it will show how much Stored Value is being deducted or if the ride is free.

### For more information:

- For Metro, go to [metro.net/about/farecapping](http://metro.net/about/farecapping).
- For Omnitrans, go to [omnitrans.org](http://omnitrans.org).

## More Transit Discounts

- Metrolink is offering a special **Summer Day Pass**: \$15 weekdays to ride all day, anywhere Metrolink goes.
- On OC Bus, employers can sign up for **Perk Pass** so commuters can qualify for money-saving passes.
- Riverside Transit is offering **25-cent rides all summer**.
- Youth 18 and under and college students **ride free on Ventura County buses**.

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY

## Metro's Regional Connector Is Making Rail Travel Faster and Easier

Metro last month celebrated the grand opening of the Regional Connector, which allows riders on Metro Rail to travel between Azusa, East LA and the beaches without having to transfer.

With the new Regional Connector, the A, E and L Lines have been combined into two: the new A and E Lines.

The lines share three new stations in downtown Los Angeles: Little Tokyo/Arts District, Historic Broadway and Grand Av Arts/Bunker Hill.

### Here are some of the features of the Regional Connector:

- The A Line provides a transfer-free ride between Long Beach and Azusa.
- The E Line is now a gold color, and provides faster, transfer-free rides between Santa Monica and East LA.
- The part of the L Line that was between Little Tokyo/Arts District Station and APU/Citrus College Station is now part of the A Line.
- The part of the L Line that was between Little Tokyo/Arts District Station and Atlantic Station is part of the E Line. The color for this part of the line remains gold.
- The new A Line connects Union Station and Little Tokyo/Arts District Station, replacing the L Line Shuttle.

Find out more at [metro.net/moredtla](https://metro.net/moredtla).



## Answers to the Most Frequently Asked Questions About the Regional Connector

### “How often will trains run?”

Trains on both lines run every 10 minutes at weekday peak hours and every 12 minutes the rest of the day and during weekend daytime hours. Trains run every 20 minutes in early mornings and later in the evenings.

### “How do I transfer?”

It's easy to transfer between the A and E Lines at any of the five DTLA stations they share:

- Pico
- 7th/Metro
- Grand Av Arts/Bunker Hill (at 2nd and Hope)
- Historic Broadway (at 2nd and Broadway)
- Little Tokyo/Arts District (at 1st and Alameda)

Just step off one train and get on the next. There's no need to walk to a different platform.

### “How will this change my commute?”

Riders coming from Azusa and East LA no longer have to transfer to the subway at Union Station. You can stay on the A or E Line and now ride directly to or through DTLA. Riders coming into DTLA on the current A and E Lines no longer need to transfer to the subway at 7th/Metro to reach many downtown destinations.

Metro estimates riders can save up to 20 minutes per ride.

## Metro's Service Changes Now in Effect

On June 25, Metro made service updates to many of its bus lines to improve reliability and on-time arrivals.

All the new timetables are here:

[mybus.metro.net/en](https://mybus.metro.net/en).

The changes are based on feedback from customers and operators. Overall, Metro made updates to 65 weekday, 43 Saturday and 42 Sunday bus schedules.

# ORANGE COUNTY

## OC Bus Launches Express Service on Beach Boulevard

Introducing...**Bravo! 529**, new, faster OC Bus service from Fullerton to Huntington Beach, traveling through Westminster.

Bravo! Route 529 runs along Beach Boulevard and connects to the Fullerton Park & Ride, the Goldenwest Transportation Center in Huntington Beach and 12 major bus routes throughout Orange County.

It follows the same route as OC Bus Route 29, with fewer stops (13 vs. 34). That saves riders up to 10 minutes per ride.

Service runs weekdays 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. every 12 minutes during peak hours. Buses run every 18 minutes the rest of the day.



## OC Flex Group Rides Are 50% Off for Summer

Through the end of August, group rides on OC Flex are half price when up to four tickets are purchased together through the OC Flex app.



OC Flex is on-demand, shared-ride service that covers parts of Laguna Niguel, Aliso Viejo and Mission Viejo.

Groups can take unlimited rides all day throughout the zone at a special promotional price of \$4.50 for two, \$6.75 for three and \$9 for four riders.

For more information, go to [octa.net/ocflex](http://octa.net/ocflex).

## Good News for OC Bus Route 43 and 543 Riders

Faster travel times may soon be on the way. Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) received a federal funding grant for a project that focuses on improving travel times on **OC Bus Route 43 and Bravo! Route 543**.

The project will test using a cloud-based transit signal priority system along Harbor Boulevard.

Harbor Boulevard is one of OCTA's busiest routes, with an average daily ridership of roughly 10,000 passengers.

# RIVERSIDE/ SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

## Ride RTA for Just 25 Cents

Ride anywhere Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) buses go for just 25 cents this summer.

To pay, riders simply use the GoMobile app or drop a quarter in the farebox when they board.

Get details and schedules at [riversidetransit.com](http://riversidetransit.com).



## Vanpool Subsidies Increase in the Inland Empire

Vanpoolers in the Inland Empire can now earn subsidies of up to \$700 every month toward vanpool lease costs.

The monthly subsidy for vanpools that travel into Riverside and San Bernardino counties is now \$600 (up from \$400). Zero-emission vehicles may qualify for up to a \$700 monthly subsidy (previously \$500).

In addition, commuters new to ridesharing who start vanpooling may qualify for an incentive of \$5/Day for the first three months.

For more information:



- In Riverside County, visit [VanClub.net](http://VanClub.net) or call 1.844.VANCLUB (826.2582);
- In San Bernardino County, visit [RidetheLoop.com](http://RidetheLoop.com) or call 833.RIDETHELOOP (743.3843);
- The \$5/Day incentive program, visit [IECommuter.org](http://IECommuter.org) or call 1.866.RIDESHARE (743.3742).

## Rim Riders Board Mountain Transit for Free

Mountain Transit now offers free bus service for riders in the Rim area. This includes:

- Mountain Transit Route 2, including Valley of Enchantment, Crestline, Twin Peaks and Lake Arrowhead (Monday through Sunday).
- Route 4, including Lake Arrowhead and Running Springs (Tuesday through Saturday).

Both the Crestline and Lake Arrowhead Summer Trolleys are free to ride.

Mountain Transit's route 5, commuter service to San Bernardino, will retain its current fare structure.

Find out more at [mountaintransit.org](http://mountaintransit.org).

# VENTURA COUNTY

## VCTC to Continue Free Rides for Youth Programs

Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) announced that it will continue its Youth Ride Free and College Ride programs, which were set to expire in June.

Free rides on any Ventura County bus are available to:

- Youth 18 and under
- Students over 18 with a valid high school ID
- Students enrolled at California Lutheran University, California State University Channel Islands, Moorpark College, Oxnard College, Ventura College, Santa Barbara City College, University of California, Santa Barbara and Ventura County Adult Education Consortium with a valid ID

Find out more at [goventura.org/youth](https://goventura.org/youth).

## Gearing Up for the X Games



X Games is coming to Ventura July 21-23. To help fans get to the games without having to deal with traffic and parking, VCTC Transit, Gold Coast Transit and Metrolink will be offering expanded service.

Look for updates at [goventura.org](https://goventura.org).

## Take the Worry Out of Ridesharing

### Did you know...?

With the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program, your employees who rideshare can rest assured that they will have a ride home should an emergency come up.



The GRH program is offered at no cost to you as an employer or to the employee.

VCTC also offers [informational brochures](#) for your employees free of charge.

To sign up, or for more information, call 951.352.8229.

# CALENDAR

## Events

**The Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) International Conference** is July 30–Aug. 2 in Seattle, WA. It features workshops, exhibits and plenty of opportunities to network with transportation experts and other ETCs. For details and to register, visit [conference.actweb.org](https://conference.actweb.org).

**Rideshare Week** in Southern California is Oct. 2-6—save the date!

## Network Opportunities

**Burbank TMO** serves businesses in Downtown and Media District areas; call 818.953.7788, [director@btmo.org](mailto:director@btmo.org).

**Go Glendale** meets regularly; call 213.425.0955; email [director@goglendale.org](mailto:director@goglendale.org).

**IE Commuter** offers bi-annual marketing workshops for ETCs in the Inland Empire; call 1.866.RIDESHARE (866.743.3742).

**Irvine Spectrum TMA** meets regularly; call 949.727.4273 or email [kelly@spectrumotion.com](mailto:kelly@spectrumotion.com).

**LAX TMA** has a TMA underway; email [mmolina@lawa.org](mailto:mmolina@lawa.org) or [tbackstrom@lawa.org](mailto:tbackstrom@lawa.org).

**Orange County Network** meets regularly; email [sharetheride@octa.net](mailto:sharetheride@octa.net).

Continued on page 8 →

**Pasadena TMA** meets regularly; contact Talin Shahbazian at [tshahbazian@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:tshahbazian@cityofpasadena.net).

## Training

**IE Commuter Office Hours**—monthly no-cost online, interactive workshops on topics of interest to ETCs in Riverside and San Bernardino counties—are July 12 and August 9, 10-11 a.m. To sign up, email [info@iecommuter.org](mailto:info@iecommuter.org).

**Metro Commuter Option & Regulatory Compliance Support offers free ETC Briefings** where Los Angeles area employers [can learn about the transportation survey process](#). Until further notice, briefings are being offered online only. To sign up, send an email to [SharedMobility@metro.net](mailto:SharedMobility@metro.net); you will be sent a link with a password to log into the meeting. If you can't make that meeting, email Metro to set up a one-on-one virtual meeting. Upcoming ETC Briefings are July 12, Aug. 16 and Sept. 13, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Santa Monica TMO** meets regularly; contact [info@GoSaMoTMO.org](mailto:info@GoSaMoTMO.org), or call 213.425.0955.

**South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)** offers two-day ETC training via Zoom for \$222.98. There will be no sessions in July. In August, sessions are currently scheduled for Aug. 8 and 10 and Aug. 22 and 24 (pending final verification of dates). For more information, contact the South Coast AQMD's training program at [etctraining@aqmd.gov](mailto:etctraining@aqmd.gov) or visit [aqmd.gov](http://aqmd.gov).



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For subscription information or to change your **ON THE GO** email address, contact your representative at the rideshare office nearest you.

### Riverside/San Bernardino Rideshare Program

IE Commuter Business: 1.866.RIDESHARE (866.743.3742)

Twitter: [@IECommuter](#), [@TheRCTC](#), [@goSBCTA](#)

Facebook: [IECommuter](#), [TheRCTC](#), [goSBCTA](#)

Instagram: [@iecommuter](#), [@therctc](#), [@gospbcta](#)

Blog: [www.rctc.org/the-point/](http://www.rctc.org/the-point/)

LinkedIn [www.linkedin.com/company/ie-commuter/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/ie-commuter/)

[ie-commuter/](#)

### Metro Commuter Options & Regulatory Compliance Support

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MS 99-19-06

Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Business: 213.922.2811

[SharedMobility@metro.net](mailto:SharedMobility@metro.net)

[thesource.metro.net/](http://thesource.metro.net/)

Twitter: [@MetroLosAngeles](#)

Facebook: [LosAngelesMetro](#)

### Ventura County Transportation Commission Commuter Services

751 E. Daily Dr., Ste. 420

Camarillo, CA 93010

Business: 951.352.8006

[goventura.org/rideshare](http://goventura.org/rideshare)

Twitter: [@GoVCTC](#)

Facebook: [GoVCTC](#)

Instagram: [@goVCTC](#)

### OCTA Share the Ride Programs

550 S. Main St., Orange, CA 92868

Mailing address:

PO Box 14184, Orange, CA 92863

Business: 714.636.RIDE option 4

Twitter: [@GoOCTA](#)

Facebook: [OCTASharetheRide](#)

### Commuter Information 511

[SoCal511.com](http://SoCal511.com)

Los Angeles/Orange/Ventura and Riverside/San Bernardino counties



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