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# **News for Your Employees**

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# Get in Gear—It's Bike Month!



May is National Bike Month, and your Southern California transportation agencies have plenty in store to help your employees discover the joys of twowheeled travel.

Here's what's happening...

# **Throughout Southern California**

Bike to Work Week is May 15-19, and Bike to Work Day is Thursday, May 18.

Cyclists can ride Metrolink for free during Bike to Work Week when they bring their bike on board. (Bikes are allowed on all trains, and Metrolink also features special Bike Cars designed to accommodate more bikes.)

Look for more Metrolink Bike Month news-including information on bike

trails accessible via the train—at metrolinktrains.com and on Facebook and Twitter.

# In Los Angeles County

Free Rides: Metro will offer free rides on Bike to Work Day, Thursday, May 18, on all Metro buses and trains.

Win Prizes: Employees who commute by bike have a chance to win great prizes. To qualify for the prize drawing, commuters simply log onto ridematch.info, set up a profile and then track their bicycle commute trips throughout May on the calendar. The more often they bike to work, the more chances they have to win.

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# **Metrolink Brings Back the \$15 Summer Day Pass**

Metrolink is bringing back its \$15 Summer Day Pass, which provides unlimited rides on one weekday of travel throughout the Metrolink sustem.

The special rate can help people explore Southern California all summer long—and may also be a more affordable rate for commuters vs. standard one-way fares.

Available exclusively on the Metrolink Mobile App, the \$15 Summer Day Pass will be offered May 31 through Sept. 2.

Passes purchased with origins or destinations for travel within Los Angeles County include free transfers to LA Metro Bus and Rail.

Metrolink also regularly offers a



















# **Get in Gear—It's Bike Month!**

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Metro Bike Share: During Bike Month, a 30-Day Bike Share Pass is just \$1 (a \$16 savings) when purchasing online or via the app. Commuters can ride a Metro Bike Share free on May 18, and 365-Day passes will be 50% off on May 18 and May 19.

Throughout the month, Metro will offer a series of free, in-person classes to help cyclists learn how to select a bike, change a flat, map a route and more.

On May 18 and 19, Metro Bike Share will conduct pop-up events at The North Hollywood B Line (Red) Station and Santa Monica E Line (Expo) Station.

Sunday, May 21, is **CicLAmini—Watts**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., an Open Streets event allowing cyclists and pedestrians to explore a car-free route through Watts.

Contact: Get details at metro.net/bikemonth or call 213.922.2811.

## **In Orange County**

During Bike Month in Orange County, people are encouraged not only to bike to work, but also on errands, for fitness and just for fun.

**Win Prizes:** Pledge to ride your bike in May for a chance to win one of two great prizes:

- Trek Verve 1 Disc Lowstep Bike
- Bontrager Ion Elite Front Bike Light

Cyclists that participate in each of four challenges and join the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Strava Club can earn up to five entries in the prize drawing.

**OCTA Bike Rally and Ride:** Meet up with other cyclists May 18, 7:30-9:00 a.m.

at the Orange Metrolink Station for a rally with prizes, giveaways, speakers and snacks. Then enjoy a group ride to OCTA headquarters on Main Street.

Contact: Get details at octa.net/BikeMonth, as well as on Facebook and Twitter.



## In Riverside/San Bernardino Counties

Bike Month is a good time to remind employees that riding a bike to work may help them qualify for special incentives through IE Commuter.

**Get in the Spotlight:** Bike commuters who log their trips may qualify to win a monthly prize valued at up to \$100 with IE Commuter's **Rideshare Spotlight.** 



**Earn Incentives:** Commuters who are new to ridesharing—which includes bicycling—can earn **incentives of \$5/ Day** for the first three months.

Find out more at IECommuter.org.

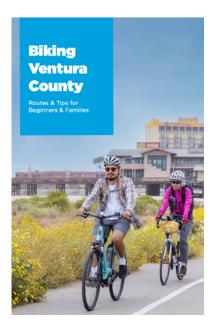
# **In Ventura County**

Biking is big in Ventura County, and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) is aiming to help people find their best biking options throughout May.

Use the hashtag #bikethere all month long to share your biking adventures on social media and connect with other cyclists.

Win Prizes: Make the pledge and bike during Bike to Work Week May 15-19 for a chance to win a \$250 Amazon gift card.

**Bike Resources:** VCTC offers a **regional bike map** to help riders find a bike-friendly route.



They'll also be highlighting other biking resources, such as Bike Repair Stations and detailed route information at Cycle California Coast.

**Contact:** Get details at goventura.org and on **Facebook** and **Twitter.** 





# A Whole New Ballgame

Baseball is back! Here are the transit options to get to the games without the hassle and expense of driving and parking.



## The Dodger Stadium Express

Metro's Dodger Stadium Express is offering modified service from Union Station and Harbor Gateway Transit Center to the ballpark for every home game.

Rides are free with a game ticket.



## **Traveling to Angels Stadium**

There are public transit options to get you to and from the games, including regular service on Metrolink trains.

OC Bus offers service to the ARTIC Station in Anaheim, where it is a short walk to Angels Stadium.

# Make Sure You're **Not Missing Out on This Easy Rideshare Marketing Strategy**

Want an easy, free marketing strategy? Just send out the On the Go for Commuters each month—rideshare news for your employees, available in English and Spanish.

On the Go for Commuters is a 1-page newsletter created by your county transportation agencies that is emailed monthly to ETCs. It features news on what's happening in ridesharing in Southern California—from special events, to changes in bus/rail service, to ways to save money on the commute, and more.

It's not only a valuable tool to get employees to try alternatives to driving alone, but it counts as an approved marketing strategy if you submit an Employee Commute Reduction Plan to the South Coast AQMD.

You can download the latest issue of On the Go for Commuters from this newsletter (see top of pg.1).



# **5 Ways Commuters Can Save on the Ride**

**Los Angeles County** 

# 1. \$1 to Ride Metro Micro

Metro Micro is on-demand, shared service that takes riders curb-to-curb, and introductory fares are only \$1. Plus, Metro is currently running a special "first two rides free" promotion.

It serves zones that include portions of El Monte, Glendale, Pasadena, the San Fernando Valley and Westwood.

Find out more at metro.com/metromicro.



# 2. Half-Price Metrolink Fares for **Low-Income Riders**

Metrolink's low-income fare discount program offers riders a 50% discount on any Metrolink ticket or pass available when purchased with a valid California Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card.

Tickets are only available for purchase from Metrolink ticket machines.

The pilot program is set to expire Aug. 31 or until funds are exhausted.





# 3. Summer Trolleys

Summer means the return of free summer trolleus that shuttle riders to beaches, restaurants, local attractions and businesses.

Among the free trolleys soon to start their summer run are the Dana Point Trolley, Laguna Niguel Summer Trolley, San Clemente Trolley and Mountain Transit's Big Bear Trolley.



# 4. Metro 50% Discount Continues **Until June 30**

Metro's 50% discount on 7-Day and 30-Day passes (originally slated to expire in 2022) will continue through the end of June.

See current fares at metro.net/fares.

# 5. Free or Reduced-Cost Access to **Express Lanes**

Express toll lanes can save commuters time on the drive, but they may not be in everyone's budget. The good news: Carpools can ride free or at a discount in some Southern California express lanes.

- 91 Express Lanes: 3+ carpools travel toll-free except eastbound, Monday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m., when they receive a 50% discount on the posted toll.
- Metro ExpressLanes on the I-10 Freeway: 3+ carpools can ride tollfree at all hours. 2+ carpools pay a toll during peak hours (5-9 a.m. and 4-7 p.m.) but have toll-free access during off-peak hours.
- Metro Express Lanes on the I-110 Freeway: 2+ carpools ride toll-free at all hours.

A transponder set to the number of people in the vehicle is required.





# LOS ANGELES COUNTY ORANGE COUNTY

# **Metro ExpressLanes Now Allow** "Pay As You Go" Access

As part of a pilot program, you can now ride in Metro's ExpressLanes on the I-10 and I-110 freeways even if you don't have a valid FasTrak account or transponder. Instead, you'll be billed for the posted toll plus a \$4 processing fee.

Prior to this, driving in the Metro ExpressLanes without an account or transponder would have cost a minimum of \$25 plus the posted toll rate.

Here's how it works: If you use the lanes, a notice of toll evasion violation is mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle with payment instructions. It must be paid within 30 days to avoid additional penalties.

Metro still allows carpools to ride free or at a discount in ExpressLanes, but a transponder set to the number of people in the vehicle is required. Otherwise, the tolls and \$4 fee will apply.

Find out more at metroexpresslanes.net.

# **Big Changes to Improve Safety** at Metro Stations

Just weeks after the launch of nearly 300 Metro Ambassadors aboard trains and buses, the Metro Board of Directors last month approved the hiring of 48 new transit security officers to keep bus operators and riders safe.

In addition, Metro is working with the city and the county to add homeless outreach, drug addiction and crisis intervention teams, and is improving its use of security cameras and lighting and more frequent cleaning of stations and vehicles.

Read more about it at thesource.metro.net and metro.net/safety.



# A Faster, Easier OCTA Online Experience

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) recently redesigned its website.

The simple, streamlined navigation lets you easily find your way around, whether you're checking schedules, planning trips or exploring services.

Check it out at octa.net.

While you're there, sign up to receive OCTA's NextStop newsletter via email that features the latest news for OC Bus riders.



# **Metrolink and Pacific Surfliner Back on Track**

All regular Metrolink and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner train service resumed last month through south Orange County.

Service had been suspended between Irvine and Oceanside to allow emergency construction work to stop slope movement and stabilize the tracks in south San Clemente.

For the latest updates, visit metrolinktrains.com and pacificsurfliner.com/alerts.

**Los Angeles County** 



# RIVERSIDE/ SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

# Thank You IE Commuter Employer Partners

IE Commuter partners with employers throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including Coachella and Yucca Valley, as well as employers from nearby counties with staff living in the Inland Empire.

The efforts of these employers to provide rideshare alternatives to employees have made the Inland Empire a better place to live and travel.

Get a glimpse at a list of employers that are making a difference in the Inland Empire at **IECommuter.org.** 

# Last year, Inland Empire worksite rideshare programs...



Eliminated more than a half million trips



Resulted in nearly **16 million** fewer miles of travel



Helped prevent more than **8.145 tons** of vehicle emissions

# Weigh in on Transit Needs in San Bernardino County

What will make transit better in San Bernardino County? Are fixed route, ADA paratransit or rail services meeting your needs? San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) wants to know!

They are currently collecting public feedback.

To weigh in, attend a public hearing on May 9 at 10 a.m. at the SBCTA offices in San Bernardino. You can also participate from teleconference locations in Big Bear Lake, Needles and Hesperia.

Written comments will also be accepted via mail or email until July 31.



# **VENTURA** COUNTY

# **Gold Coast Transit Offers** "Late Night Safe Rides"

Gold Coast Transit recently introduced Late Night Safe Rides—a shared ride, on-demand service available 7 p.m. to 12 Midnight. The new service aims to provide passengers with an affordable and safe option during the evening hours, in particular workers in fields such as hospitality and health care, who may get off work late at night.

Fare is \$2, payable by cash or **mobile pass**. Rides can be requested by calling 805.485.2319.

The service area covers anywhere Gold Coast Transit goes, including Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura and Ojai.



# In Case You Missed the News...

Ventura County now offers VCbuspass: a regional transit pass for all transit providers in the county. This contactless option makes it easier for riders to purchase fares, make transfers and track their transit expenses.

To use it, simply download the app, or purchase a card online or from a VCTC sales location.

Upon boarding the bus, just hold your card or mobile phone up to the VCbuspass reader. The appropriate fare will be deducted—at a 10% discount over the cash fare when using stored value.

VCbuspass is good on VCTC Intercity, Gold Coast Transit, Valley Express Transit, Simi Valley Transit, Thousand Oaks Transit, Ojai Trolley, Moorpark Transit and Camarillo Area Transit.

Find out more and download the app at goventura.org/vcbuspass.

# **CALENDAR**

# **Events**

May is Clean Air Month and the release of the annual State of the Air Report, which grades local air quality. Find out more at lung.org.

May is Bike Month. See pg. 1 for events.

**IE Commuter Spring Marketing Workshop** for ETCs is May 2, 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Central Park Community Building in Rancho Cucamonga. Attendees will learn about innovative approaches to communication in the transportation industry and gain practical tools to apply these strategies to a rideshare program. The no-cost workshop is open to employers in Riverside and San Bernardino counties and counts as a marketing strategy for the South Coast AQMD's Rule 2202. To register, **click here** or contact IE Commuter at 1.866.RIDESHARE (866.743.3742).

Metrolink's special train service to the LA County Fair on weekends begins May 13 and runs through Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, metrolinktrains.com.

Bike to Work Week is May 15-19. During the week, Metrolink is offering free rides to cyclists who board with their bikes.

Employee Health and Fitness Day is May 17, a great day to remind employees about the health benefits of alternatives to solo driving like biking and walkina.

**Bike to Work Day** is Thursday, May 18. To celebrate, Metro will be offering free rides all day.

OCTA Bike Rally and Ride is May 18, 7 a.m. at the Orange Metrolink Station, followed by a group ride to OCTA headquarters on Main Street, octa.net/BikeMonth.

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# The Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) International

**Conference** will be held 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.** 

# **Network Opportunities**

Please note: Due to COVID-19 concerns, network meetings may be canceled or conducted via online platform—please contact organizers for more information.

**Burbank TMO** serves businesses in Downtown and Media District areas; call 818.953.7788, director@btmo.org.

**Go Glendale** meets regularly; call 213.425.0955; email 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**.

**LAX TMA** has a TMA underway; email mmolina@lawa.org or tbackstrom@lawa.org.

# **Orange County Network**

meets regularly;
email sharetheride@octa.net.

Pasadena TMA meets regularly; contact Talin Shahbazian at tshahbazian@cityofpasadena.net.

**Santa Monica TMO** meets regularly; contact **info@GoSaMoTMO.org**, or call 213.425.0955.

# **Training**

**IE Commuter**—monthly online, interactive workshops on topics of interest to ETCs in Riverside and San Bernardino counties—are June 14 and July 12, 10-11 a.m. To sign up, email **info@iecommuter.org.** 

Metro Rideshare/Shared Mobility 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; 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 May 23, June 14 and July 12, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) offers two-day ETC training via Zoom for \$211.16. The next scheduled sessions are May 2 and 4, May 16 and 18, June 6 and 8 and June 20 and 22. For more information, contact the South Coast AQMD's training program at etctraining@aqmd.gov or visit aqmd.gov.

# ONTHEGO

Editor/Writer: Jill Smolinski

**Design:** Lentini Design & Marketing, Inc Hilary Lentini, Leanna Hanson

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, @gosbcta
Blog: www.rctc.org/the-point/
LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/company/
ie-commuter/

Metro Regional Rideshare/Shared Mobility One Gateway Plaza

MS 99-19-06

Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952 Business: 213.922.2811 SharedMobility@metro.net 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
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

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















