

ON THE GO

News for Your Employees

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'Tis the Season of Sharing



The holidays are almost here—and your Southern California rideshare agencies have ways that you can put the sharing into the season.

Metrolink Is Bringing Back Holiday Express Trains

Metrolink's beloved Holiday Express trains will soon be rolling again! These festively decorated trains will bring holiday fun—including carolers, treats, children's activities and more—to Metrolink stations starting Nov. 25.

The Holiday Express events will also collect donations of new, unwrapped toys and socks for those in need.

Special trains run through Dec. 16. For a schedule of appearances and how to donate, visit metrolinktrains.com.

"Stuff a Bus" with Toys for Kids

Transit agencies are partnering with KABC7 and the Southern California Firefighters for the annual Spark of Love Toy Drive.

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5 Tips for Getting Your Hybrid Workers to Rideshare

Although more and more employers are calling for workers to return to the worksite, that doesn't mean telework is a thing of the past.

In fact, 50% of paid work is still currently done through telecommuting—most through a hybrid schedule.

Hybrid telework arrangements bring advantages to employers in terms of employee retention and happiness. They also bring challenges for managing these workers' special commute needs.

Because hybrid workers spend so much less time commuting overall, it's tempting for them to revert to driving alone on the days they come into the office.

Here, we outline five ways you can help ensure that hybrid workers—especially those who used to rideshare pre-pandemic—don't slide back into driving alone:



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Calendar of Events

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5 Tips for Getting Your Hybrid Workers to Rideshare

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1. Review how you offer benefits — it's no longer “one size fits all” when it comes to commuting.

Whenever possible, allow employees to choose more of a cafeteria style of commute options vs. having to commit to getting to work the same way every day.

If you subsidize the cost of transit, include daily or flex passes as well as monthly passes for those employees who don't commute five days a week.

50% OF PAID WORK IS STILL CURRENTLY DONE THROUGH TELECOMMUTING—MOST THROUGH A HYBRID SCHEDULE.

For employees that vanpool, suggest that employees “share” a seat so the vanpool still meets ridership minimums, even if employees are only coming into work a few days a week.

2. Promote modes that feel less like a waste of valuable time.

Employees got a taste for not sitting in traffic every day, and they have less tolerance for it now. Promote options that can help commuters make better use of their time.

Riding the train or vanpooling allows people to catch up on emails or just relax and unwind. Bicycling lets them combine getting to work with their workout. If they can access carpool lanes, they'll waste less time on the road.

3. Let them know about transit/carpool deals and discounts.

Cost can tempt commuters to give up the solo drive if the deal is good enough, especially with gas prices being so high.

Transit agencies often run special promotions on passes, such as **OCTA's Savings Pass** that offers 40% off fares or **Free Ride Fridays** on Riverside Transit. Check with your local agency.

Many express toll lanes—including those on the 10, 110, 91 and 15 freeways—allow carpools to ride free or at a discount (passenger requirements vary).

4. It's not just where they work, but when that makes a difference in the commute.

Can you flex schedules to make it easier for employees to meet up with carpools or vanpools, or be able to catch a convenient train or commuter bus?

5. Ask employees what would make the commute more bearable.

Whether you set up a formal focus group or simply ask around, you might be surprised at what you learn when you invite feedback.

You may find, for example, that employees would much rather take the train than drive, but the nearest station is too far to walk. That's an opportunity to suggest “last mile” options such as bike share programs or microtransit.

Asking may also help you identify policies in your commute program that need to be tweaked to better meet the needs of hybrid workers—and that can make a big difference in your rideshare rate.



EMPLOYEES GOT A TASTE FOR NOT SITTING IN TRAFFIC EVERY DAY, AND THEY HAVE LESS TOLERANCE FOR IT NOW.

Telework Resources for Employers

- **Metro** provides one-on-one help to Los Angeles County ETCs and employers to establish or troubleshoot a telework program. Email SharedMobility@metro.net or call 213.922.2811.

- **Orange County Transportation Authority** offers free 1-hour telework training to employers. Find out more and view past telework webinars at octa.net/telework.

- **Riverside/San Bernardino Counties:** Visit IECommuter.org/telework for resources, including sample telework worksheets and forms. For more information and resources, call 1.866.RIDESHARE (866.743.3742) or email info@IECommuter.org.

- **Ventura County Transportation Authority:** Access a series of recorded webinars and get resources including guides and sample forms at goventura.org/telework.

'Tis the Season of Sharing

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You're asked to help "stuff a bus" full of new toys for underserved families. For details on upcoming dates and locations, visit abc7.com/sparkoflove.

Free Rides

Metro will offer free rides on bus and rail from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Look for details at metro.net.

Rides are free on OC Bus on New Year's Eve. Details will be posted at octa.net.



Celebrate the Holidays on the Train & Save

On Thanksgiving Day, Christmas and New Year's Day, Metrolink will run on its Sunday schedule and price—so it's only \$10 to travel all day, anywhere Metrolink goes.



Students Ride Free on Metrolink



Big news for students: Metrolink last month launched the new Student Adventure Pass. This pass allows any student with valid school identification to ride anywhere on the Metrolink system for free.

The Student Adventure Pass is a pilot program and will run until funds are depleted.

For details, visit metrolinktrains.com/students.



South Coast AQMD to Reinstate Late Fees



Important news if you're required to submit an annual transportation plan to meet South Coast Rule 2202 mandates: As of Jan 1, 2024, the agency will no longer waive late plan submittal and extension fees.

The fees were temporarily suspended "to accommodate difficult and uncertain conditions being experienced by regulated employers during the time of COVID-19 social distancing measures," according to a South Coast AQMD notice.

For more information, visit aqmd.gov.

Alert: Metrolink Closure Dec. 26-29



Metrolink will have a system-wide closure Dec. 26-29. No trains will operate on these days.

Details will be

posted at metrolinktrains.com.

Find alternate transportation options at Ridematch.info, IECommuter.org or by calling 511.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Metro's ETC Support Department Gets a New Name



The Metro department that assists employers with managing commute programs now goes by a new name: Commuter Options & Regulatory Compliance Support.

It was previously Regional Rideshare/Shared Mobility.

“The new name better reflects the many services we offer to Los Angeles County employers and commuters,” says Metro Transportation Planning Senior Manager Martin Buford. “Our team works directly with ETCs to help them with their employee commute programs, as well as providing direct support with Rule 2202 South Coast AQMD mandates and local congestion management regulations—including annual AVR survey assistance and processing.”

Contact Metro Commuter Options & Regulatory Compliance Support at 213.922.2811.

TAP Mobile App Upgrades Now Available



TAP recently added some updates to its app. Among them is a “Fare Capping Status” feature. This lets Metro riders view their fare capping progress towards free rides for the 1-Day and 7-Day cap, right from the app.

Fare capping means that people who pay per ride won't pay a higher rate than those who purchase multi-ride or monthly passes. A TAP card (vs. paying in cash) is required to qualify for fare capping.

Download the app at metro.net.

More Frequent Service on Metro B and D Subway Lines



Metro recently added more frequent service to the B and D Line subway lines—reducing crowding on trains and allowing riders to get where they're going faster.

On weekdays, trains now run every 12 minutes from about 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. (and 8:15 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends).

Where the B and D Lines share a section of track—between Wilshire/Vermont and Union Station—trains run every six minutes at these peak hours.

During non-peak hours trains run every 20 minutes (and every 10 minutes between Wilshire/Vermont and Union Station).

The increase in frequencies is part of ongoing work to restore Metro Rail service to pre-pandemic levels.

By the end of last year, Metro had hired enough bus operators to return to pre-pandemic bus service levels. This fiscal year, the agency is working to do the same for its rail service, according to [Metro's The Source](#).

Metro's monthly bus and rail ridership is now at 76% of its 2019 pre-pandemic level.

THE INCREASE IN FREQUENCIES IS PART OF ONGOING WORK TO RESTORE METRO RAIL SERVICE TO PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS.

ORANGE COUNTY

I-405 Express Lanes Are One Step Closer to Opening

With the recent reopening of the Newland Street Bridge—the 18th and final bridge reconstructed as part of the **I-405 Improvement Project**—the entire project is nearly complete.

A 16-mile stretch of the 405 Freeway between Costa Mesa and the LA County line has been undergoing improvements since 2018.

The project will add one regular lane in each direction as well as express toll lanes.

Construction is expected to be complete by the end of this year.



OC Bus Riders Get Free App Upgrade

OC Bus riders can now get a free upgrade to Transit Royale, the premium subscription of the Transit app.

Transit Royale uses real-time information to allow OC Bus riders to plan and track their trips, then view arrival and departure times.

Find out more and download the app at octa.net.



Bringing Your Bike on OC Bus



Did you know...? All OC Bus vehicles can accommodate up to three bikes. This includes e-bikes, as long as they fit the same profile as a regular bike.

Bikes must fit securely on the bike rack and weigh 55 pounds or less. Bikes/e-bikes are not permitted inside the bus unless they are foldable or it is the last bus trip of the day.

OCTA offers tips for safely loading and unloading bikes, as well as details on specifications at octa.net/bike.

Start a Vanpool with Just 50% Occupancy

As a pilot program starting in 2021, OCTA dropped the minimum ridership to 50% to allow a vanpool to qualify for incentives—including \$400 monthly subsidies.

OCTA recently announced that it will keep the minimum at 50% permanently to make it easier to get vanpools on the road.

Find out more about the benefits and service for Orange County vanpools at octa.net/vanpool.

RIVERSIDE/ SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

San Bernardino Launches “Where Will You Go” Campaign

San Bernardino County Transportation Authority recently launched a campaign to spread the word about the county’s vast network of connecting public transit systems.

Did you know...? Metrolink, Arrow, Omnitrans, Victor Valley Transit Authority, Mountain Transit and three regional bus systems all come together at the San Bernardino Transit Center.

Riders can take their local system to the Transit Center and transfer safely and quickly to get where they need to go—from Barstow to as far as Oceanside, or from Los Angeles all the way to Indio.

The campaign’s theme is “Where Will You Go?” and features scenarios that illustrate how people can easily and seamlessly get around Southern California on transit.

Riders are invited to share how they connect through the Transit Center for a chance to win prizes in a quarterly drawing.

Find out more at gobscta.com.



Free Fridays on RTA



It’s now free to ride Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) buses on Fridays. This includes all local, CommuterLink and GoMicro buses through June 2024.

To board at no cost, riders will need a Free Ride Friday pass, available via the GoMobile app at riversidetransit.com.

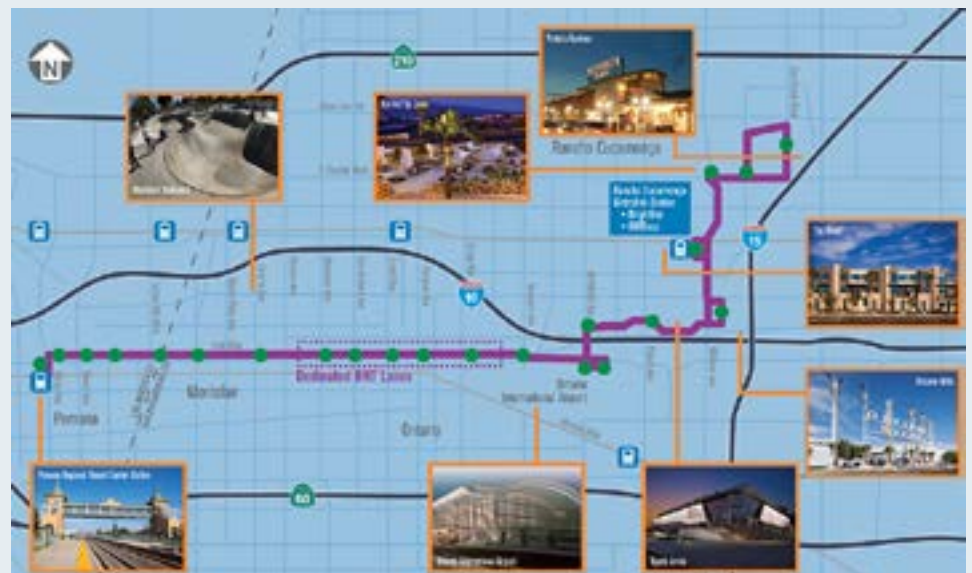
West Valley Connector Groundbreaking

Construction of the West Valley Connector got underway last month. Upon completion, the project will bring a 100% zero-emission bus rapid transit system to the city of Ontario.

The connector will span nearly 20 miles, with 21 stations between Pomona and Rancho Cucamonga—including 3.5 miles of dedicated bus lanes.

In addition to serving Ontario International Airport, it will link to Metrolink and multiple major activity centers, including Ontario Mills and Victoria Gardens.

[Click here](#) to sign up to receive regular project and construction updates.



VENTURA COUNTY

Free Rides on Veterans Day



U.S. military veterans as well as active military can ride Ventura County buses for free on Friday, Nov. 10, Veterans Day (observed).

To qualify for a free ride, veterans should show their valid veteran's identification to the bus driver upon boarding any participating fixed-route bus service.

Veterans without proper identification will be asked to share their branch, dates and location of service with the bus driver.

Weigh in on Ventura County's Transit Needs

Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) will kick off its Unmet Needs Process starting in December.

You'll have a chance to give feedback on what's needed to improve transit options for people who live or work in the county.

VCTC will host a series of informational workshops and public hearings, as well as invite input in an online survey.

The survey and schedule of workshops will be posted at goventura.org.

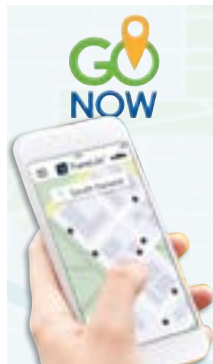
Go Now Expands Service Area

Go Now—on-demand, shared ride vans serving a zone in South Oxnard—recently expanded its coverage zone.

Operated by Gold Coast Transit, Go Now has added three stops outside the service zone:

- St. John's Regional Medical Center
- Kaiser Permanente (Oxnard)
- Tres Sierras (Pleasant Valley)

Rides are only \$2 and are ordered via app. Go Now runs weekdays, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Find out more and download the app at gctd.org.



CALENDAR

Events

The Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) annual TDM Forum is Nov. 2-3 at the Sheraton Grand Los Angeles. In addition to sessions on the latest in transportation, the forum also features the ACT 40 Under 40 Awards and the TDM Excellence Awards. For details, visit actweb.org. Walk-in registrations are welcome.

Ventura County buses will offer free rides for veterans on Veterans Day (observed), Nov. 10. For a list of participating providers, visit goventura.org.

The Metrolink Holiday Express will bring holiday fun to stations throughout Southern California Nov. 25-Dec. 16. See the schedule at metrolinktrains.com.

Ride Metrolink for \$10 all day on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas and New Year's Day. Trains will run on their Sunday schedule so consult metrolinktrains.com for schedule information.

Ciclvia open streets event is Dec. 3 in South L.A., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Streets connecting Leimert Park and Historic South Central will be closed to driving traffic so participants can jog, ride, bike, skate, run, skateboard and walk. Get details at ciclvia.org.

Donate Toys for Kids—Help "stuff a bus" full of new toys for underserved families. For times and locations, visit abc7.com/sparkoflove.

Go Metro to the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1. Details and special event hours will be available at metro.net.

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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 Office Hours—monthly online, interactive workshops on topics of interest to ETCs in Riverside and San Bernardino counties—are Nov. 8 and Dec. 13, 10-11 a.m. To sign up, email info@IECommuter.org.

Metro Commuter Options & 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; you will be sent a link 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 Nov. 15 and Dec. 13, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) offers two-day ETC training via Zoom for \$222.98. The next scheduled sessions are Nov. 7 and 9 and Dec. 5 and 7. For more information, contact the South Coast AQMD's training program at etctraining@aqmd.gov or visit aqmd.gov.



ON THE GO

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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

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Blog: www.rctc.org/the-point/

LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/company/ie-commuter/

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Ventura County Transportation Commission Commuter Services

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Camarillo, CA 93010

Business: 951.352.8006

goventura.org/rideshare

Twitter: [@GoVCTC](https://twitter.com/GoVCTC)

Facebook: [GoVCTC](https://www.facebook.com/GoVCTC)

Instagram: [@goVCTC](https://www.instagram.com/goVCTC)

OCTA Share the Ride Programs

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Facebook: [OCTASharetheRide](https://www.facebook.com/OCTASharetheRide)

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