

The County Commuter



Fall 2006

Annual Transportation Survey

In this issue:

Quarterly Rideshare Drawing	2
Rideshare Week	2
MetroLink Weekend Service	2
New OC Express Service	3
OCTA Helps Commuter	3

Each year, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) requires the County of Orange to conduct an annual survey of our employees' transportation and commuting patterns. The results of the survey keep us in line with various regulations, and help us in planning new programs designed to ease traffic congestion and improve air quality.

This year's survey will be conducted at the end of this month. So, be sure to look for your e-mail message next week with the link to the on-line survey.

The Rideshare Department encourages all employees to complete either the on-line or paper version of the survey. Our goal is to achieve a 90% response rate.

The good news is that all employees who submit their survey will automatically be entered into a drawing to receive a \$100 gift certificate to the MainPlace Mall!

If you have any questions about the survey process, please send an e-mail to rideshare@ocgov.com or call the Message Center at 714-834-4068. Good luck, and thanks in advance for completing the annual survey.

New Guaranteed Ride Home Program

Effective September 1, 2006, the County has signed on with the new regional Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program funded by OCTA.

The new GRH program offers rideshare participants a free ride home if an emergency arises on a day that they rideshare – either by taxi or rental car. Employees that car-pool, vanpool, ride public transit, bike or walk to work qualify for up to four emergency rides in a 12-month period in the following circumstances:

- Unexpected illness of an employee or member of the employee's family
- Unscheduled or unanticipated overtime or extended workday
- Missed connections with a planned ride home due to unanticipated change in work schedule
- Other emergency situations as deemed appropriate

For the new GRH program Authorization Form (which replaces the "old" guaranteed return trip vouchers), and a copy of the "Rules and Regulations," send an e-mail to rideshare@ocgov.com, or visit one of our 30 commuter information display racks – [click here](#) for a list of locations.



Special points of interest:

- AQMD's [CUT-SMOG Smoking Vehicles Program](#) reduces pollution from cars, trucks and buses. Citizens are encouraged to call 1-800-CUT-SMOG to report their observations of smoking vehicles.
- The Air Quality Management District's Current Hourly Readings for Air Monitoring can be viewed by [clicking here](#).



Quarterly Rideshare Drawing

Listed below are the winners of the Commuter Club quarterly drawing. Each quarter eight Commuter Club members have a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate!

Congratulations to the following winners:

- *Jill Abbott, Orange County Sheriff's Department*
- *Mayra Santana, Social Services Agency*
- *Vicky Humphrey, Social Services Agency*
- *Alberto Rocca, Resource & Development*
- *David Castellanos, Health Care Agency*
- *Theodore Von Bitner, Resource & Development*
- *Curtis Condon, Health Care Agency*
- *Jennifer Duffy, Orange County Probation*

Each won a gift certificate redeemable through GiftCertificates.com featuring over 20 merchants!

Do you rideshare at least five days per month? If so, be sure to sign up for the Commuter Club to receive your annual thank you gift and to be eligible for the quarterly drawings. To sign up for the Commuter Club, [click here](#) for the All-In-One form.



Rideshare Week

Pick a day, any day. Commuters throughout Southern California will do just that October 2-6, 2006, choosing at least one day to share the ride in celebration of Rideshare Week.

Sponsored by OCTA, the theme this year is "Good for You!" Commuters who

pledge to rideshare during Rideshare Week may qualify to win prizes including getaways, Metrolink passes and more! You can pick up your pledge book at one of the County's Commuter Information Display Racks ([click here](#) for locations). You also be able to pledge on-line starting October 2nd at www.octa.net/rideshare.



Metrolink Weekend Service

On July 2nd, Metrolink introduced new Sunday service on the Orange County Line to complement the Saturday services that they began offering in June. Three round trips between San Clemente and Los Angeles (two originating in Oceanside and one originating in San Juan Capistrano), will run on both Saturdays and Sundays.

On July 14th, trains from the Inland Empire will also make the trek from San Ber-

nardino to Oceanside. Two round trips from San Bernardino and one from downtown Riverside will make stops all along the Inland Empire-Orange County (IEOC) Line, including the San Clemente Pier, where the Metrolink Station is just steps away from the beach.

For more information about Metrolink's weekend service, [click here](#) or call 1-800-371-LINK (5465).



New OC Express Service



Commuters who live in Chino, Pomona and Corona have a new way to “fly to work.” On the new OC Express, you’ll cruise to work in the HOV lanes with minimal stops along the way. Every seat on the OC Express has lap trays, power connections, reading lights and comfortable high-back seats. There are three express lines running:

- Route 794 - South Coast Metro to Riverside/Corona
- Route 758 - Chino to Irvine Spectrum
- Route 757 - Pomona to Santa Ana

For more details about the OC Express route and schedule, [click here](#) or call 714-636-RIDE (7433).

For more details about the County’s annual OCTA e-pass program, send an e-mail to rideshare@ocgov.com, call the Message Center at 714-834-4068, [click here](#) to be linked to the Commuter Assistance Program website, or visit one of our 30 commuter information display racks – [click here](#) for a list of locations.



Gustavo Hernandez
Superior Court

OCTA Helps Commuter

The County Commuter recently received an e-mail from an employee that had just started taking the bus to work for the first time, and we wanted to know more! We interviewed Gustavo Hernandez, Superior Court Clerk, and here’s what we learned:

Q: How often do you ride the bus?

A: I ride the bus 2-4 days a week.

Q: What made you decide to start riding the bus to work?

A: I started riding the bus due to the fact that I live out of county and gas prices and the wear and tear on my car were getting to be too much. Once I realized how much money I would be saving and the stressful drives I would be avoiding it was a no brainer to start taking the bus.

Q: How long have you been riding the bus?

A: I’ve been riding the bus for about 2 months.

Q: How do you like the OCTA annual pass program?

A: I really like the annual bus pass program because you get charged only for the amount of times you ride the bus as opposed to paying \$45 a month for a regular bus pass even though you may not ride as much one month compared to the next. Thank you!

No, thank you Gustavo! And we bet you liked the convenience of purchasing the fare through the payroll deduction process. For more details about the County’s Commuter Choice program, [click here](#) to be linked to the Commuter Assistance Program website, or visit one of our 30 commuter information display racks – [click here](#) for a list of locations.

Commuter Assistance Program

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The County 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.