

ON THE GO

News for Your Employees

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'Tis the Season to Rideshare

The holidays are here, and we have ways to help you and your commuters get the most from it and put the "sharing" back into ridesharing.

Donate Toys for Kids—Transit agencies are partnering with KABC7 and the Southern California Firefighters for the annual Spark of Love Toy Drive. You're asked to help "stuff a bus" full of new toys for underserved families.

- Dec. 3: The Collection at Riverpark, Oxnard
- Dec. 3: Mathis Brothers, Ontario
- Dec. 10: Los Cerritos Center, Cerritos



- Dec. 10: Westfield Topanga Mall, Canoga Park
For details, visit abc7.com/sparkoflove.

\$10 All Day—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.

Go Metro to the Rose Bowl—Avoid traffic and the hassle and expense of parking by taking Metro if you're going to the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1. Details and special event hours will be available at metro.net.

In Case You Missed the Big News...

A whole lot happened in the past year that impacts your rideshare program. In case you missed any of it, here's a recap of a few of 2021's transportation highlights:

Telework continued to be a common way to work.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, many non-essential employees continued at-home work.

In one survey of 300 Orange County employers conducted early in the year, 98% said they had some sort of work-

from-home program compared to 76% prior to COVID-19.

More than half planned to continue allowing employees to work from home even after they could return to the worksite, according to the survey.

Southern California vanpools changed policies to make it easier for people to ride.

Most of the regional vanpool programs adjusted policies to allow fewer people to ride yet still qualify for subsidies—making

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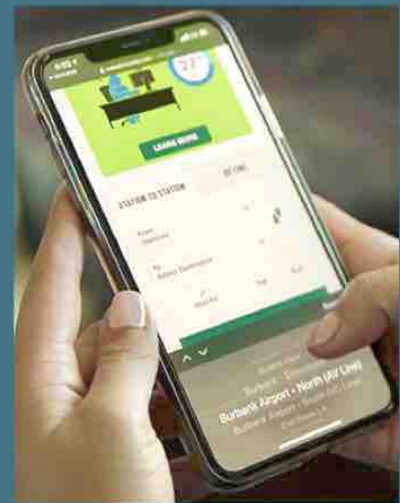
New Metrolink Schedules Now in Effect

Metrolink's schedule update went into effect Oct. 25. It includes time adjustments to many trains to increase connectivity and improve on-time performance.

Some changes are also to better coordinate with Amtrak Pacific Surfliner service.

According to a press release from Metrolink, it is only making minor adjustments to its current schedule in order to effectively prepare for restored service in the next few months.

For a full list of changes, visit metrolinktrains.com.



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In Case You Missed the Big News...

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it possible to keep vanpools on the road while social distancing.

For the most recent vanpool program information:

Los Angeles: metro.net/vanpool

Orange: octa.net/vanpool

Riverside: vanclub.net

San Bernardino: ridetheloop.com

Ventura: goventura.org



Bike Share stations opened.

Metro Bike Share opened more stations—including 17 on the Westside of Los Angeles and 12 in Hollywood—bringing the total number of stations to more than 200. Find locations and bike availability at metro.net/bikeshare.



Metro Micro expanded service.

Metro Micro also expanded into new service zones in Compton/Artesia, El Monte and North Hollywood. Metro Micro is Metro's ride-hailing service that offers shared rides, operating within certain zones.

Rides can be booked via the app, at metro.net/micro or by calling 323.GO.METRO (323.466.3876).



Bus and rail gradually reinstated service.

Though many transit providers are still not offering service at pre-pandemic levels, most did adjust routes and schedules to accommodate more riders as people began to return to the worksite.

For the most up-to-date bus/rail routing, visit go511.com, IE511.org or call 511.

Express Lanes opened on the I-15.

Riverside County's I-15 Express Lanes opened, extending 15 miles from Route 60 to Cajalco Road in Corona. They connect to the 91 Express Lanes and allow for seamless travel between Riverside and Orange counties.

Get details at riversideexpress.com.



Sunline launched service to San Bernardino.

Sunline Transit launched the I-10 Commuter Link, which provides service for 92 miles between the Coachella Valley and San Bernardino.



For details and a full list of connecting transit lines, visit sunline.org.



Metrolink began weekend service on the Ventura County line.

Metrolink began service on its Ventura County line. The new Saturday service departs out of Moorpark, Camarillo, Oxnard, and Ventura-East.

For more information and train schedules, visit metrolinktrains.com.



Bike Month and Rideshare Week made a comeback.

After a hiatus in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic, commuters in 2021 again celebrated alternatives to driving alone with Bike Month in May and Rideshare Week in October.

Making Telecommuting Work for Your Worksite

Employer Profile: University of California Los Angeles

After the governor lifted California's Stay-at-Home mandate, allowing people who'd been working at home to return to the worksite, UCLA—like many employers—didn't go back to "business as usual."

Instead, they looked at what's been successful over the past year and a half and incorporated that into how employees continue to work and commute.

"We set out to transition from telecommuting being an alternative niche thing to a regular part of UCLA's working style," says David Karwaski, director of Mobility Planning & Traffic Systems for UCLA.

There was good reason for that. Not only was the telecommuting program popular with employees, but a survey of management showed that more than 90% felt it was effective.

Another benefit: Keeping it on has helped solve a potential shortage of

parking on campus. More than a fourth of former bus riders and vanpoolers indicated they'd prefer to drive to work due to the ongoing pandemic—a number that could have glutted available parking.

NOT ONLY WAS THE TELECOMMUTING PROGRAM POPULAR WITH EMPLOYEES, BUT A SURVEY OF MANAGEMENT SHOWED THAT MORE THAN 90% FELT IT WAS EFFECTIVE.

Telecommuting has also helped UCLA in meeting its traffic reduction goals. "We took the approach, 'What better way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce traffic than not having you commute at all?'" Karwaski says.

Some of the new policies and programs that UCLA has put in place:

Garnering overt management support. UCLA held regular townhall meetings where leadership provided Covid updates that discussed telecommuting strategies—underscoring their support of the program.

Creating an online, centralized resource for telecommuting procedures. This allowed consistent practices across campus and established it as an accepted option for employees. (To view it, [click here](#).)



David Karwaski, director, Mobility Planning & Traffic Systems, UCLA

Changing how rideshare subsidies are offered to allow for greater flexibility. As an example, UCLA subsidizes a third of the cost of a quarterly transit pass. Now, they also operate in more of what Karwaski dubs a "multi-modal approach" that recognizes employees aren't commuting as consistently as they used to.

In any single week, they might, say, ride the bus, drive and telework. UCLA has now lowered the price of a transit pass and they allow employees to choose a day pass for parking vs. monthly—so employees still commute affordably but can choose the option that works best for them.

Giving managers the "how to's" of managing telecommuting employees. This includes tips on setting up scheduling. "Everybody wants to work at home on Monday and Friday, but that won't work for parking capacity demand and office density," says Karwaski. "We gave them a scheduling matrix on how to spread peoples' schedules across the week."



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LOS ANGELES COUNTY



Important Fare News from Metro



Fare collection will resume on the Metro bus system on Jan. 10.

To keep riders and employees safe, Metro had suspended front door boarding on buses in March 2020 at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic. They also relaxed the rules requiring riders to use the farebox and TAP validator.

With vaccinations well underway and mask wearing required on all buses and trains, Metro will

go back to usual fare collection operations.

As a special promotion, Metro will be cutting the price of regular passes in half for the first six months, starting Jan. 10.

Riders will pay only \$3.50 for a day pass, \$12.50 for a weekly pass and \$50 for a 30-day pass if they are not enrolled in a discounted program.

The fares will be available on TAP vending machines, taptogo.net and at Metro Customer Centers.

Low-Income Fare Is Easy (LIFE) Program

Low-income individuals may qualify for deeper discounts with [Metro's LIFE program](#). For the first six months, new LIFE riders will get 90 days of free rides when fare collection restarts.



GoPass Fareless Pass Program Adds LAUSD Students

Students in Los Angeles Unified School District can now ride Metro bus and rail free, thanks to a new partnership between the district and area transit agencies.

Metro will provide every K-12 student with a TAP card that can be used to board transit at no cost through June 30, 2023.

The GoPass Fareless Pass Program provides free rides for students in participating cities throughout Los Angeles County. For a full list, visit metro.net/about/fsi.



ORANGE COUNTY

Workshops Teach Bus-Riding Basics

OC Bus offers workshops to help people learn the basics of bus riding before riding for the first time. Workshops are offered in five languages (English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean and Mandarin) and are designed for groups of 10-20 online and in-person.

Training includes trip planning, fare options, how to safely board and exit, ADA accessibility standards and using mobility devices. Registration is required.

Learn more and sign up at octa.net or call 1.888.878.2232.



OC Flex Group Rides Are Half-Off

A special promotion is allowing people to pay half the usual price for OC Flex group rides.

OC Flex is the on-demand, curbside-to-curbside shuttle serving parts of Aliso Viejo, Mission Viejo and Laguna Niguel. Inside the OC Flex zone, unlimited rides are usually just \$4.50 a day per person with the OC Flex Mobile App or \$5 when paying cash.

During the promotion, two people ride for \$4.50 (rather than \$9), three people ride for \$6.75 (usually \$13.50), and four people ride for \$9 (normally \$18).

To take advantage of this discount, riders must book and pay using the mobile app. Groups must ride with the person who booked the trip.

Learn more download the mobile app at octa.net/ocflex.



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RIVERSIDE/SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Big Bear Trolley Now Underway



Mountain Transit launched a new, free trolley that makes it easier to get around Big Bear. With three lines, it services the Village and Erwin Lake, Boulder Bay and North Shore areas.

All lines start at The Village and run 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily.

Get details at mountaintransit.org.



Free and Discount Transit in Riverside County

The following agencies in Riverside County offer free or discounted rides:



Beaumont Transit is offering free fares through December 2021 for all riders.



Riverside Transit Agency offers free fares through June 2022 for riders 18 years and younger and for college students attending Cal Baptist University, La Sierra University, Moreno Valley College, Mt. San Jacinto College, Norco College, Riverside City College, and UC Riverside.



In the Coachella Valley, **SunLine Transit** offers free SunBus rides through its HaulPass Program. Students in grades 9-12 and students attending Cal State University, San Bernardino-Palm Desert campus, or College of the Desert may ride free with student identification.

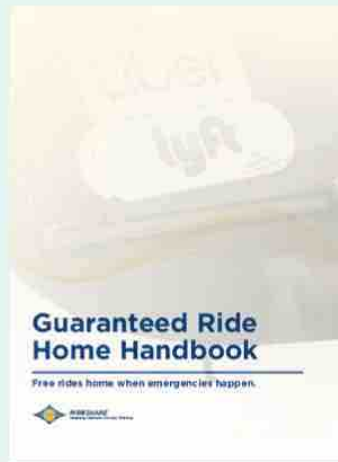
VENTURA COUNTY

Get New Guaranteed Ride Home Marketing Materials

Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) recently updated some of its policies for its Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program, which offers up to six free emergency rides home to ridesharers per fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).

Among the new policies: Rideshare services such as Lyft and Uber are now options for rides home. (Rental car, however, is no longer an allowable option.) Taxis are still an option.

To download the updated GRH Handbook as well as program documents in English and Spanish, visit goventura.org.



Free Rides on Veteran's Day

VCTC will provide free rides to U.S. military veterans on the VCTC Intercity Transit bus service on Veteran's Day, Thursday, Nov. 11.



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.



CALENDAR

Events

Veterans ride free on VCTC Intercity Transit on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11.

The Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) Southern California chapter will hold an ETC marketing workshop via Zoom on Nov. 17, 2-4 p.m. It includes a South Coast AQMD marketing certificate and will feature topics such as using AVR survey data to grow your rideshare program, navigating commutes in a pandemic and much more. To register, [click here](#).

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.

The ACT annual TDM Forum (formerly scheduled for November in Atlanta) will now be a virtual event on Dec. 14. For details, visit actweb.org.

Donate Toys for Kids—Help "stuff a bus" full of new toys for underserved families. Drive-by locations:

Dec. 3: The Collection at Riverpark, Oxnard

Dec. 3: Mathis Brothers, Ontario

Dec. 10: Los Cerritos Center, Cerritos

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For details, visit abc7.com/sparkoflove.

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

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.

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CALENDAR *continued from page 7*

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

Compass at Playa Vista meets regularly; call Aaron Gaul, 310.929.5946, aaron@playavistacompass.com.

Go Glendale meets regularly; call 818.543.7641.

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, email steve@spectrumotion.com.

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 Puja Thomas Patel, 424.330.4298.

Torrance Transportation Network meets regularly; call Kim Fuentes at 310.784.7902.

Training

IE Commuter Office Hours — monthly online, interactive workshops on topics of interest to ETCs in Riverside and San Bernardino counties—are Nov. 10 and Dec. 8, 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 Nov. 16 and Dec. 7, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; contact Metro for information on how to participate on these dates.

South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) offers two-day ETC training via Zoom for \$198.27. The next scheduled sessions are Nov. 2 and 4, Nov. 16 and 18 and Dec. 7 and 9. 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** e-mail 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: <http://www.rctc.org/the-point/>

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Facebook: LosAngelesMetro

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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

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