

ONTHEGO

News for Your Employees

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5 Hot Summer Deals for Ridesharers



Some rideshare deals are just around for summer, so be sure to let your commuters know while they can still take advantage of them.

1. Metrolink \$15 Summer Day Pass

Metrolink is again offering a hot deal with its special Summer Day Pass— just \$15 for unlimited systemwide travel any day Monday through Friday.

It's a great way for employees to give commuting by Metrolink a try at a bargain price.

The Summer Day Pass is available through Aug. 30 via the [Metrolink mobile app](#) and at ticket machines.

2. Free Summer Trolleys

Summer means the return of free trolleys that can shuttle you to beaches, businesses, restaurants, shopping and more.

In Orange County, you can hop on trolleys in [Dana Point](#), [Laguna Beach](#), [Laguna Niguel](#), [Newport Balboa Peninsula](#), [San Clemente](#) and [San Juan Capistrano](#).

Mountain Transit in San Bernardino operates free summer shuttles serving [Big Bear](#), [Crestline](#) and [Lake Arrowhead](#).

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Are You Missing Out on This Easy, No-Cost Rideshare Incentive?

Many ETCs have big goals for their rideshare programs—but also the challenge of a limited budget.

The good news: One of the most effective incentives to motivate employees to rideshare is available at no cost to worksites in Southern California.

The regional Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program is designed to take the worry out of ridesharing. With GRH, your employees who rideshare can get a free ride home due to illness or emergency while at work or if they have to work unexpected overtime.

Fact is, some employees won't rideshare to work for fear they'll be without a car if they need to get home. Having a GRH program in place can give them the peace of mind needed to give ridesharing a try.

Thinking of offering GRH at your worksite? Or want to expand a program you already have? Here, we answer ETCs' most often asked questions:

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5 Hot Summer Deals

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3. Ride RTA for a Quarter—Plus Youth Ride Free

Now through Aug. 31, you can ride Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) buses for only 25 cents. The discount rate applies on all fixed-route buses and GoMicro shuttles every day, including weekends.

Also, starting July 1, youth 18 and under can ride RTA buses for free.

Find out more at riversidetransit.com.



4. Get to the Ballgame Without Paying for Parking

Metro's **Dodger Stadium Express** runs from L.A. Union Station and Harbor Gateway Transit Center in the South Bay to the ballpark for every home game. Rides are free with a game ticket. (Regular fares apply on all other connecting bus and rail service.)



Metrolink's **Angels Express** trains run on select home games. Trains operate from L.A. Union Station, Oceanside and Riverside-Downtown to Anaheim, just steps from the stadium. Round-trip fares are only \$10, and kids 17 and under ride free.



5. Rideshare for a Chance to Win

Commuters who live or work in Riverside or San Bernardino counties could win great prizes—including an Apple Watch and an Echo Show 15.

IE Commuter's Cool Rides, Summer Vibes promotion holds monthly prize drawings throughout the summer for commuters who log their telework and/or rideshare days.

For details, visit IECommuter.org/SummerVibes or call 1.866.RIDESHARE (866.743.3742).



Heads Up—Rideshare Week Is Coming Soon

Mark your calendar for Rideshare Week, Oct. 7-11—it's Rideshare Week!

Later this summer, your Southern California rideshare agencies will be rolling out turn-key marketing materials and offering workshops and other support to help you bring Rideshare Week to your commuters.

In the meantime, it's not too early to start by brainstorming ways you can add your own flair by making plans to host a rideshare fair, in-house prize drawing, contest or other event.

Plus look for details in the next issue of *On the Go for ETCs*.



Easy, No-Cost Rideshare Incentive

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Q: Why should we offer a GRH program?

A: By providing a safety net in case of emergency, GRH can boost the number of employees willing to carpool, vanpool, ride transit, bike or walk to work.

It also qualifies as an incentive strategy for the South Coast AQMD’s Rule 2202 and for employers submitting a plan for Ventura County’s Rule 211.

Q: Is it really free?

A: Yes, it is funded through the transportation agencies in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties.

Q: Will it take us a lot of time to oversee the program?

A: GRH is designed to be as easy to use as possible, with minimal administration.

To get started, enroll your worksite in the GRH program through your local county rideshare agency.* (See contact information below.) This includes creating a brief service agreement that outlines requirements of participation and the steps of how you’ll run your GRH program (which vary by county).

You’ll then receive turn-key marketing materials to roll out the program at your worksite.

Employees don’t need to sign up for the program. Once your worksite is enrolled, all employees are automatically eligible.

Q: How are rides paid for?

A: The regional rideshare program provides reimbursement for all qualifying emergency rides. How these rides are initially paid for is up to you—whether by the employee, the employer or a third-party vendor hired by the employer.

After the ride, you simply send a receipt and claim form for reimbursement to your county GRH provider (within the specified timeframe).

* Except in Ventura County, where employers that use VCTC for survey services are automatically enrolled in the program.

Q: Can any employee claim an emergency ride home?

A: GRH reimbursements are only provided to commuters who got to work by ridesharing that day. An employee who drove alone does not qualify.

Q: What type of ride can they use?

A: GRH options include using a taxi, transportation network company (i.e. Uber/Lyft) carsharing company or transit. Rental car is currently an option in some counties.

Q: Is there a limit to the number of rides?

A: In Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, an employee can be reimbursed for two emergency rides per fiscal year. In Ventura County the maximum per employee is six rides.

SOME EMPLOYEES WON’T RIDESHARE TO WORK FOR FEAR THEY’LL BE WITHOUT A CAR IF THEY NEED TO GET HOME. HAVING A GRH PROGRAM IN PLACE CAN GIVE THEM THE PEACE OF MIND NEEDED TO GIVE RIDESHARING A TRY.

Since July 1 marks the start of a new fiscal year, employees at worksites already participating in GRH again have a clean slate.

Q: What qualifies as an emergency?

A: Employees can be reimbursed for illness or emergency for themselves or an immediate family member or if they have to work unexpected overtime. They can also claim a ride if they’d be otherwise stranded because the carpool/vanpool driver left due to emergency.

Be sure to check the list of qualifying (and non-qualifying) emergencies provided by your county GRH provider.



GRH cannot, for example, be used for non-emergency appointments, voluntary overtime or vehicle troubles, among other emergencies. Ventura County’s GRH program allows rides for natural disasters and public transit delays but the other counties do not.

Q: Does it only cover a ride home?

A: No, the employee can arrange a ride to a medical facility, daycare/school, or to where a personal vehicle is parked (if at a Park & Ride lot or transit station). Interim stops are also accepted if they’re needed to reach the final emergency destination.

Q: Do employees need to get approval before taking their ride?

A: Typically, employees contact the ETC for a reimbursement form and, in some cases, to get help arranging the ride. That helps avoid problems later if an employee requests reimbursement for a non-qualifying emergency.

For More Information and to Sign Up

Los Angeles County: Visit Metro Commuter Options and Regulatory Compliance Support at metro.net or call 213.922.2811. Metro also offers a [GRH Program Overview guide](#).

Orange County: Visit Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) at octa.net or call 714.636.RIDE, option 4.

Riverside/San Bernardino Counties: Visit IECommuter.org, call 1.866.RIDESHARE (866.743.3742) or email info@IECommuter.org.

Ventura County: Visit ventura.org/rideshare or call 951.352.8006.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Free Metro TAP Cards and RideGuides for New Hires

Employers that participate in the Metro annual AVR survey process are automatically enrolled in the Go Metro to Work Free program. This program provides employers with access to free 7-day TAP cards for newly hired employees that apply to receive one.

As of July 1, employees will also be sent a RideGuide commute planner along with the TAP card. RideGuides offer personalized transit routing based on home and work locations and work schedule—so a commuter can start using the free TAP card right way.

For more information on how to add the program application to your new-hire process, email CommuterOptions@metro.net or call 213.922.2811.

Ride Metro to Summer Fun

Get to all the fun this summer without the hassle of driving and expense of parking.

Visit metro.net/summer for a handy list of destinations accessible by Metro's A, B and E lines—from Hollywood Bowl concerts to a Fourth of July Block Party at Grand Park, to museums, parks, events and more.

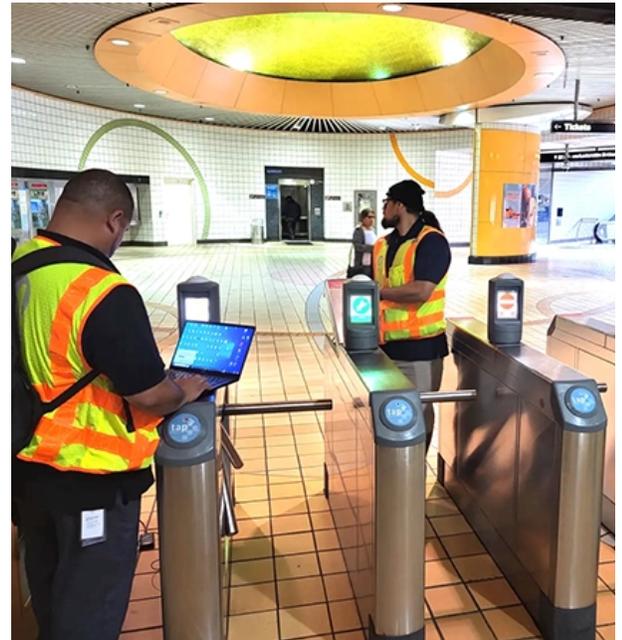
“TAP to Exit” and More Ways Metro Is Improving Safety

Metro has been working to improve safety on its system, introducing a series of measures to address riders' concerns.

Most recently, Metro launched a TAP to exit pilot at its North Hollywood B Line Station. Riders there not only are required to use their TAP cards to enter the station but to exit it as well. The goal is to more closely monitor fare compliance to ensure that Metro is used only for travel.

As a rider, if you TAP your card and fare was deducted when you started your trip, tapping out will confirm fare was paid and open the fare gates. No extra fare is charged to your card. If you didn't TAP in, the proper fare will be deducted when you TAP out—but you could also receive a warning, citation or be removed from the system.

Another safety strategy: Since May, Metro has also been keeping the doors on rail cars closed until one minute before the train is set to depart. This allows staff to offload and clear each train when it reaches the end of the line, ensuring that everyone is using the cars for transportation.



Metro's blog, The Source, regularly posts updates on improvements. Follow it at thesource.metro.net.

The TAP to Exit program is one of the latest in series of improvements that also include:

- **A 20% increase in Metro-controlled public safety personnel**
- More than 300 **Metro Ambassadors** that patrol the system answering riders' questions and assisting in emergencies
- Significant changes at the Westlake/MacArthur Park Station to reduce drug use and crime, such as closing off the secondary north entrance to allow Metro to better monitor the entrances
- Brighter lighting throughout the system

ORANGE COUNTY

OC Bus Riders Are Reaping Rewards

Orange County transit riders can earn 500 bonus points when they **sign up for the new OC Bus Rewards program** before Nov. 1. They will also be entered into a drawing to win three months of bus passes.

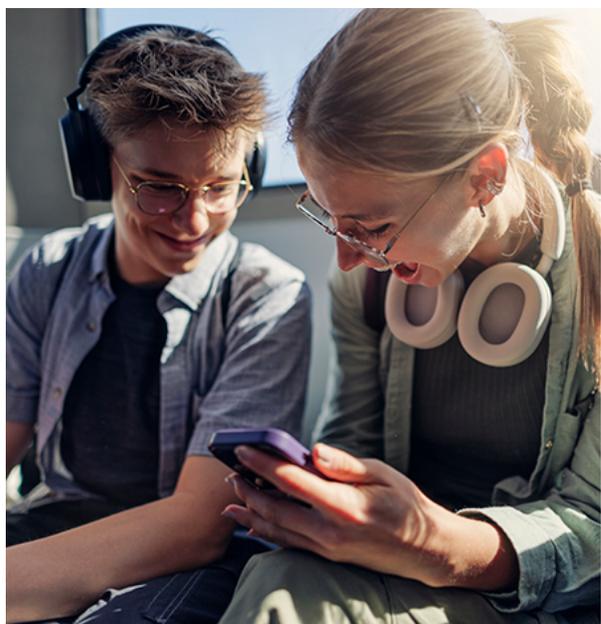
OC Bus Rewards allows riders to earn points toward free 1-Day and 30-Day passes every time they ride and/or purchase a pass.

Already, nearly 3,000 riders have signed up for the program.

Get details and sign up at [octa.net](https://www.octa.net).



School's Out, but Free Rides for Youth Are Still In



Youth aged 6 to 18 can ride OC Bus free with a **Youth Ride Free Pass**. The passes are available from participating Orange County schools. (A parent signature is required.)

Although schools help distribute the passes, it's not strictly for riding to and from school—and therefore, the pass is valid even when school is not in session.

Parents of students at schools not distributing the pass can request passes directly from Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA).

iShuttle Is Up and Running Again in Irvine

Good news: Service has resumed on OC Bus iShuttles serving the Irvine area.

These bright green and blue shuttles help commuters complete that critical first and last mile to and from work, home and Metrolink stations in both Irvine and Tustin.

Irvine service had been briefly suspended due to a brief strike of OCTA maintenance employees.

Route 400A and 401B is for travel from Tustin Station to Irvine Business Complex routes.

Routes 402C and 403D services Irvine Station to Spectrum area routes.

For more information, visit [octa.net/iShuttle](https://www.octa.net/iShuttle).

And the Name Is...

OCTA is developing a new transit pass that uses contactless technology, similar to credit cards, for use on OC Bus, OC Flex and the upcoming OC Streetcar.

Next up in the process is to give the pass a name!

OCTA narrowed the choices down to three top contenders: Wave, Orange and Viva. Last month, the public had a chance cast an online vote for their favorite—and even write in their own ideas.

This month, OCTA will reveal the name of this new pass. Be the first to know by joining OCTA on [Facebook](#) and [X](#) or signing up for the [NextStop rider newsletter](#).

RIVERSIDE/ SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

VanClub Expands to Eastern Riverside

With VanClub, western Riverside County vanpoolers qualify for subsidies of up to \$600 a month. As of July 1, VanClub is expanding its service area to include vanpools that travel to worksites in eastern Riverside County as well.

The VanClub subsidies will replace those previously offered by SunLine's SolVan.

Find out more at vanclub.net.

Unlock a Better Commute with IE Commuter's New Dashboard

IE Commuter unveiled a new dashboard for its website, making ridesharing and earning rewards easier than ever for commuters in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Commuters logging into their dashboard at IECommuter.org will find quick, convenient links to rideshare matches, incentive programs, commuter assistance, and profile and commute preferences.

The dashboard also features at-a-glance views of participation impact over the commuter's lifetime—including total vehicle miles traveled, and pollution and cost savings.

A future dashboard is underway for commuters in Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura counties.

For more information or assistance, chat with the IE Commuter team at IECommuter.org or call 1.866.RIDESHARE (866.743.3742).

The screenshot shows the IE Commuter dashboard for a user named John. The dashboard includes a navigation bar with links for My Matches, Commuter Toolbox, Incentives, Commute Log, FAQ, and Promotions. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Welcome back, John:** A personalized greeting with a link to IECommuter.org/incentives to learn more about rewards.
- My Matches:** A section titled "IE Commuter can help match you with fellow commuters, neighbors, or coworkers taking similar trips to carpool or vanpool with. Plus, you can explore what transit options are available to you." with a "Find a Ride" button.
- My Participation Impact:** A section titled "Good work! So far you have saved:" with three metrics: 1,105 miles of vehicle travel, 1,264 lbs of pollution, and \$652 in travel costs. A link to update.commuter.org is provided to show latest savings.
- Account Profile:** A section titled "Profile Completeness:" with a progress bar and a link to "Get better match results and incentives offers with a more complete profile." Below it are links for Basic Info, Commute Preferences, and Employer / Destination.
- You may qualify for incentives...:** A section titled "Ridesharing Has Its Perks" with a link to "Explore All Incentives".
- Need Help?:** A section titled "IE Commuter is here to help. Reach us by:" with links for Starting a Live Chat at IECommuter.org, Calling 866-RIDESHARE (866-743-3742), and Emailing us at info@iecommuter.org.
- On The Go Commuter News:** A section at the bottom of the dashboard.

Ride Free on National Rural Transit Day

The poster for National Rural Transit Day features a woman smiling in a car. The text reads: "Ride Happy! Ride Free! July 16, 2024. Celebrate Rural Transit Day. San Bernardino County's rural transit systems offer freedom for everyone." Below the text are logos for Victor Valley Transit Authority, Basin Transit, Mountain Transit, and Needles Area Transit, along with the SBCTA logo.

National Rural Transit Day is July 16. The day focuses on the importance of providing transit options for people living in rural areas as well as urban communities.

To celebrate the day, select San Bernardino County buses will offer free rides. Participating agencies include Victor Valley Transportation Authority, Basin Transit, Mountain Transit and Needles Area Transit.

For trip planning information, visit GOSBCTA.com/transit.

VENTURA COUNTY

Valley Express Launches Fillmore to Moorpark Route



Valley Express, express transit that serves the Heritage Valley, will launch a Fillmore to Moorpark route on Aug. 1—providing new connections to more parts of Ventura and L.A. counties.

The route will operate daily and add three stops: the Moorpark Metrolink Station, Moorpark Marketplace, and Moorpark College.

Find out more at valleyexpressbus.org.

Weigh In on the Next 10 Years of Transit in Ventura County

Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) is planning the next 10 years of public transit in Ventura County and wants your input!

VCTC's Short Range Transit Plan will examine funding and what's needed to explore improvements in operations. It aims to:

- Understand the impacts of varying funding levels for each transit operator
- Engage the community to understand their preferences and priorities for service improvements and changes
- Develop strategies to improve service and the experience for riders
- Attract new riders

VCTC will offer opportunities for the public to comment on the plan. To sign up to receive updates and information on how you can participate, [click here](#).



CALENDAR

Events

Metrolink fares will be only \$10 to ride all day, anywhere the system goes, on Thursday, July 4, as part of its holiday discount promotion.

Rural Transit Day is July 16, recognizing the importance of ensuring that transit is available and accessible in rural areas. Rides will be free on select San Bernardino County buses.

The Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) Annual International Conference is Aug. 4-7 in Denver, CO. Get details and register at actweb.org.

Ciclaviva open streets event "Meet the Hollywoods" is Aug. 18 at 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will allow people to bike, walk, and enjoy a car-free experience along a path connecting East and West Hollywood, ciclaviva.org.

Training

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 register for a briefing, click here.** If you can't make that meeting, email Metro to set up a one-on-one virtual meeting. Upcoming ETC Briefings are July 30 and Aug. 27, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

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South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) offers two-day ETC training via Zoom for \$230.78. The next scheduled sessions are July 9 and 11, July 23 and 25, Aug. 6 and 8, Aug. 20 and 22 and Sept. 3 and 5. For more information, contact the South Coast AQMD's training program at etctraining@aqmd.gov or visit aqmd.gov.

Network Opportunities

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.

The LAX TMO hosts quarterly virtual meetings with employers who operate at LAX. Email commuteLAX@lawa.org to be invited to the next meeting.

Orange County Network meets regularly; email sharetheride@octa.net.

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

Playa Vista's TMA, Compass, meets regularly. Employees who commute to Playa Vista are eligible for incentives for all modes of sustainable transportation. For more information, email Noe Solano at noe@playavistacompass.com.



ON THE GO

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.

Metro Commuter Options & Regulatory Compliance Support

One Gateway Plaza
MS 99-19-06
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952
Business: 213.922.2811

CommuterOptions@metro.net
thesource.metro.net/
Twitter: @MetroLosAngeles
Facebook: LosAngelesMetro

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

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/

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

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