

# ONTHEGO

## News for Your Employees

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## Commuting in a Crisis



Southland traffic is already bad enough—a disaster like an earthquake, fire or flood makes it even worse. Here’s how you can make sure that regional disasters or even personal emergencies don’t leave employees stranded.

### Encourage Employees to Make a Crisis Commuting Plan.

Hold a workshop or work one-on-one with employees to create individual emergency plans. Help them to...

**Write down alternate routes to the worksite and home.** Include driving routes as well as bus and rail. The list should be kept handy so they can get where they need to go even if phones and Internet are down.

**Establish a plan with family members.** Make sure they have family emergency phone numbers and a designated meeting place. An out-of-town contact (name and phone number) is also good to have—it may be easier to call long distance as local phone lines may become overloaded.

**Identify and contact potential carpool partners.** Carpooling can be a good option if bus routes or train service is impacted, as well as if they’d feel safer not driving alone. Ridematching is available at [ridematch.info](http://ridematch.info) and [IECommuter.org](http://IECommuter.org).

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## Transit Can Take You Out to the Ballgame

Get to the stadium to cheer on your favorite baseball team without dealing with the hassle and expense of driving and parking.




### The Dodger Stadium Express

**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.)

### The Angels Express Train Is Back

Metrolink is bringing back its **Angels Express** trains. The Angels Express will be available for select home games with trains operating 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.



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## Commuting in a Crisis

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**Program key contacts into their phones**, such as the Rideshare Office number, local transit providers, local transit police, freeway service patrol, AAA, California Highway Patrol (1.800.TELL.CHP) and the 511 regional transportation information line.

### Promote Transportation Resources



- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers a **one-page, fill-in emergency planner** for commuters.

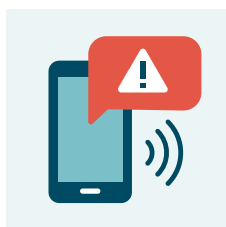
- **Red Cross has safety information** on what to do if/when emergencies arise on the commute.

- Southern California transportation information is available 24/7 at **go511.com** or by calling 511. The 511 network offers travel alerts, traffic reports, public transit information and routing, motorist aid and more.

- Many transit providers use the **Transit app** to track bus and rail in real time so riders can see if their usual bus isn't running as scheduled due to a crisis. It's also helpful for finding other transit options nearby in the event the bus or train needs to be evacuated.

(Metrolink's real-time Train Tracker is available at **metrolinktrains.com**.)

### Provide a Safety Net for Ridesharers



The Regional Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program allows commuters to rideshare to work without the

worry of getting stranded at work due to illness, unexpected overtime or other personal emergency. It provides reimbursement for a free ride home—at no cost to the employer.

#### Find out more:

Los Angeles: **metro.net**

Orange County: **octa.net**

Riverside/San Bernardino Counties:

**IECommuter.org**

Ventura County: **goventura.org**

### Keep a Telework Plan in Place—Even if Only for Emergencies



The COVID-19 pandemic made telework a regular part of many worksites' way of doing business.



Even if your employees have returned to the office, keeping the strategies of a telework program in place can help in the event of another emergency.

Contact your county rideshare agency to get telework resources and assistance.

## How the 511 Network Can Help in an Emergency

There are two ways to access Southern California's 511 transportation resource: dialing 511 or visiting **go511.com**.

SoCal 511 offers tools such as bus/rail routing, maps and rideshare information to help people manage their daily commute. It also can be a vital resource in crisis commuting conditions.

Some of what you'll find:

- Travel alerts regarding emergencies that impact roads, freeways and transit service. During last month's record-setting rainfall, for example, the 511 network provided constantly updated information on specific areas of flooding, mudslides, road closures and any affected public transit.
- Links to live traffic cameras
- Traffic reports
- Maps and trip planning
- Roadside assistance/motorist aid (by calling 511 and choosing option 4)
- Real-time transit arrival information

SoCal 511 is available 24/7 in English and Spanish.

## Ride Free on Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22, and it's a great time to remind employees about how ridesharing can help reduce the emissions that cause smog.

In celebration, rides will be free all day on **Metrolink, Metro Bus and Rail, OC Bus**, as well as all **San Bernardino County** and **Ventura County** transit providers.

Earth Day organizers offer a guide featuring **52 Ways to Invest in Our Planet**—from driving less to switching to a clean-fuel vehicle to buying less plastic and more.

You can also link to a **personal carbon footprint calculator**—see how those changes you make (like ridesharing) can add up.

Go to [earthday.org](http://earthday.org) to find out about virtual and in-person Earth Day events.



## The Inland Empire Is Celebrating Earth Day Throughout April

Commuters who live or work in Riverside and San Bernardino counties can win prizes including an Apple Watch, gift cards, whale watching tickets and more when they log their trips in April.

Here's how commuters can participate:

- Create or log into their account at [IECommuter.org](http://IECommuter.org).
- Sign up for the promotion at [IECommuter.org/EarthDayMaterials](http://IECommuter.org/EarthDayMaterials).
- Throughout April, log any day they rideshare or telework. Each day logged is an entry into the prize drawing.

You can **download marketing materials** to promote the contest to your employees or call 1.866.RIDESHARE (866.743.3742) for more information.



## Did You Know...?

Ridesharing instead of driving alone is a good way to do your share for clean air. A car causes .96 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per mile to be spewed into the air—so driving alone means you're responsible for nearly a pound of pollutants for every mile you drive.

Transit on average is roughly half that, at .45 pounds/mile per person.

Vanpooling is only .22— so almost five people can travel for the carbon footprint of one.

Of course, bicycling and walking are a zero-emission way to go.

Getting people out of their solo commutes plays an important role in California's clean air efforts, since 37% of the state's total emissions come from vehicles.





## 5 (Easy) Ways to Prep for Bike Month

May is Bike Month, a great time to promote two-wheeled commuting to your employees. Like any holiday, you'll get more out of it if you do a bit of prep work first. Here, we offer five ways to get ready:

### 1. Establish safe bike parking/storage.

Employees are more likely to bike if they have a safe space to stow their bikes while they're at work. If you don't have bike racks or lockers at your worksite, how about establishing a storage room for bike parking? Or allowing employees to keep their bikes in their offices or cubicles? Even if it's only temporary for Bike Month, that could get things rolling.

**2. Reimagine who can cycle.** As you prepare for Bike Month, keep in mind biking is for more than people who live nearby (although those who live within five miles of the worksite are prime candidates).

Metrolink and Metro Rail allow bikes on board, and nearly every bus provider includes bike racks—so biking to work can mean biking as close as the nearest transit stop.



**3. Brainstorm event ideas, whether free or funded.** Some low-cost ideas include organizing a group ride, setting up a challenge between departments (or with a neighboring company), giving awards to outstanding cyclists, offering free or discounted bike tune-ups, as well as participating in Bike to Work Day on May 16.

**4. Look for local resources.** Are there bike lanes nearby? Bike share kiosks? Is your worksite near bike rental/storage/maintenance resources such as the Long Beach Bikestation or the Bicycle Hubitat in San Bernardino?

Letting employees know of resources they can use to make bike commuting easier and safer increases the chances they'll give it a try.

**5. Enlist your bike enthusiasts.** Bike commuters are often eager to share their stories—and that can be highly motivating for recruiting new cyclists. Do a search of your rideshare data for employees who currently bike, then find ways to get them involved. Profile them in your rideshare newsletter or on the intranet. Invite them to speak at a staff meeting. Ask them for feedback on how you can create a more bike-friendly environment. They are potentially walking (and riding) testimonials.

### Some of What's Happening During (and Before) Bike Month...

- Active Streets (formerly 626 Golden Streets) open streets event is April 28 (tentative), 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., [activestreeets.org](http://activestreeets.org).
- Bike Week is May 13-17. Metrolink will be offering free rides during the week for riders who board with a bike.
- Bike to Work Day is May 16. Rides are free for cyclists on Metro Bus/Rail/Bike and on all buses in Ventura County.
- OCTA will hold its annual Bike Rally and Ride—visit [octa.net/bike](http://octa.net/bike) for event information.
- Bike Month will be a featured topic at ETC marketing workshops happening in March and April (see Calendar, pg. 7 and 8).
- Look for details about Bike Month prizes, giveaways, events and more being offered by Southern California's county rideshare agencies in the May issue of *On the Go*.



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY

## Tap for Free Rides on Bus and Rail



Metro recently adopted a policy of fare capping—a more equitable way for riders to pay fares. Under fare capping, people who pay per ride can enjoy the same savings as those who buy passes. Riders never pay more than \$5 a day or \$18 within seven days.

To take advantage of fare capping you need to pay your fare with a **TAP card**. Then load Stored Value (money) on the card to pay at the rate of \$1.75 per ride (including two hours of free one-way transfers on Metro).

Once you reach the discounted price of a 1-Day or 7-Day cap, rides are free. When you tap on the bus farebox or TAP validators at rail stations, the display will show how much money is being deducted or if the ride is free.

To learn more, [go to metro.net/farecapping](https://metro.net/farecapping). Metro also offers a short video on how fare capping works.

## Leave Your Bike on a Metro Bus or Train?

If your bicycle is accidentally left on the bus, train or a Metro property, you can file a report and retrieve it if it was turned in.

Each year, roughly 5,000 abandoned bicycles are reclaimed across LA Metro's transit network.

To report a lost bike online, visit [lostandfound.metro.net](https://lostandfound.metro.net). You'll need to describe the bike and provide information about when and where you lost it.

You can report it in-person at the Metro Lost & Found in Los Angeles.

[Click here](#) for details.

# ORANGE COUNTY

## Surprising Facts About the New 405 Express Lanes

In its first seven weeks of operations since opening in December 2023, the 405 Express Lanes recorded roughly two million trips.

The level of usage is equal to that of the 91 Express Lanes, which Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) has owned and operated for more than 20 years.

The 405 Express Lanes are toll lanes that cover 14 miles of I-405 between the SR-73 freeway in Costa Mesa and I-605 near the L.A. County line.

### Some fun facts:

- The 405 Express Lanes carry about **twice as much** carpool traffic as nearby freeways due to a policy of allowing 3+ person carpools to travel for free. Roughly **25% of the vehicles** are carpools.
  - A FasTrak transponder with a valid account to pay tolls is required to use the lanes—even if traveling free as a carpool. As of February, **6,800 transponders** had been issued to allow access to the lanes.
  - The **heaviest traveled days** are Fridays; the **least traveled days** are Sundays.
  - The heaviest traveled section is **between I-605 and SR 22**.
- For more information, visit [405expresslanes.com](https://405expresslanes.com).

## Ride Metrolink to the Swallows Day Parade

The 64th annual Swallows Day Parade and Mercado Street Fair is March 23 in San Juan Capistrano. To make it easier for people to attend the family-friendly event, OCTA is teaming up with Metrolink with a sweepstakes to win free Metrolink tickets to get there.

Sweepstakes details will be posted at [octa.net](https://octa.net).



# RIVERSIDE/ SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

## Introducing...the Riverside Vine Street Mobility Hub



Riverside Transit Agency's Vine Street Mobility Hub opened recently, providing bus and train connections near the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station.

The hub features 16 bus bays, a community plaza, information kiosks and real-time messaging signs so customers can know exactly when their next bus will arrive.

It is served by RTA local bus service, CommuterLink, Dial-A-Ride and Omnitrans, with connections with Riverside-Downtown Metrolink station.

Find out more at [riversidetransit.com](http://riversidetransit.com).

## “Bench Art” Event at the Fontana Transit Center

Omnitrans is co-hosting a fun, free community art event on April 27, 1 p.m. at the Fontana Transit Center. Stop by to enjoy performances from Inland Empire musicians, magicians, comedians and more.

You'll also get a chance to see the four top-scoring transit bench designs in a local art contest. Omnitrans received a \$100,000 grant to beautify 50 bus benches throughout the San Bernardino Valley. Visitors can see photos of the other designs which are located in cities stretching from Montclair to San Bernardino.

Details will be posted at [omnitrans.org](http://omnitrans.org).



Examples from past years' bench art from OmniTrans.org.

## High Speed Rail to Vegas Soon to Be a Reality



### A new Rancho Cucamonga Station

will serve as the Southland entry point for a high-speed rail line to Las Vegas.

Funding is fully secured for the \$12 billion rail system that will run along the 15 Freeway corridor.

Construction on the Cucamonga Station is expected to begin within the next two years and the rail line to be operating in time for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.



# VENTURA COUNTY

## Ventura County's Freeway Service Patrol Turns Three

This month, Ventura County Transportation Commission celebrates the third anniversary of its popular Freeway Service Patrol.

The program features tow trucks that travel along the 101 and 118 freeways during rush hour to assist motorists with disabled vehicles.

Services are free and include changing tires, jumpstarting batteries, filling empty gas tanks, refilling radiators, providing a tow to a safe location and more.

The Freeway Service Patrol reduces freeway congestion by quickly clearing stalled vehicles. For each minute a stalled vehicle is in a lane, it takes four minutes for traffic to return to the original flow condition.

Stranded motorists can call 805.477.4174 on weekdays 6 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 7 p.m. to request assistance. Outside of those hours, dial 911.



## A Million Free Rides

Another milestone for VCTC: Its **Youth Ride Free** program reached a million rides. Youth 18 and under can board any bus in Ventura County for free. Those over 18 enrolled in high school can also ride free (ID may be required.)

The pilot program will run through June.



# CALENDAR

**IE Commuter's Earth Day Spring ETC Marketing Workshop** is March 6. It will feature information on the upcoming Earth Day campaign, as well as other regional rideshare and transit information. Attendees will earn a marketing certificate for the South Coast AQMD's Rule 2202. Call 1.866.RIDESHARE (866.743.3742) for more information.

**OCTA will host a free wilderness hike** March 16 at Wren's View Preserve. OCTA oversees more than 1,300 acres of protected wilderness and holds a series of guided wilderness hikes through these areas that are otherwise not open to the public. See the full schedule at [preservingourlegacy.org](https://preservingourlegacy.org).

**National Transit Operator and Worker Appreciation Day is March 18**—take a minute to thank a transit worker!

**The Angels Express Metrolink train** to Angels Stadium gets underway March 26 for the pre-game against the Los Angeles Dodgers. Round-trip fares are \$10, and kids 17 and under ride free.

**April is Earthquake Preparedness Month.** Get your employees ready for commuting in crisis conditions; contact the California's Office of Emergency Services at [calOES.ca.gov](https://calOES.ca.gov) or your local Red Cross office.

**Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) West Coast Regional TDM Summit** is April 3-4 in San Francisco, CA and will feature panels, interactive discussions, networking and tours. This summit is ACT's inaugural Spring into TDM event, a series of chapter-led regional events.

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**The Spring ETC Virtual Marketing Workshop for ETCs in Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura counties** is April 10, 9 a.m. - 12 Noon. It will feature ways to market your rideshare program, details on Bike Month events and qualifies the ETC to earn a South Coast AQMD marketing certificate. Sign up information will be emailed or call your Rideshare Representative.

**Earth Day is April 22**—a day to celebrate ridesharing’s contribution to clean air, [earthday.org](http://earthday.org).

**Active Streets** (formerly 626 Golden Streets) open streets event is April 28 (tentative), 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., [activestreets.org](http://activestreets.org).

**May is National Bike Month**, presented locally by the transportation agencies for Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties and featuring prizes, rides, rallies and more.

Bike Week is May 13-17 and Bike to Work Day is May 16.

**Network Opportunities**

**Burbank TMO** serves businesses in Downtown and Media District areas; call 818.953.7788, [director@btmo.org](mailto:director@btmo.org).

**Go Glendale** meets regularly; call 213.425.0955; email [director@goglendale.org](mailto: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](mailto:kelly@spectrumotion.com).

**The LAX TMO** hosts quarterly virtual meetings with employers who operate at LAX. Email [commuteLAX@lawa.org](mailto:commuteLAX@lawa.org) to be invited to the next meeting.

**Orange County Network** meets regularly; email [sharetheride@octa.net](mailto:sharetheride@octa.net).

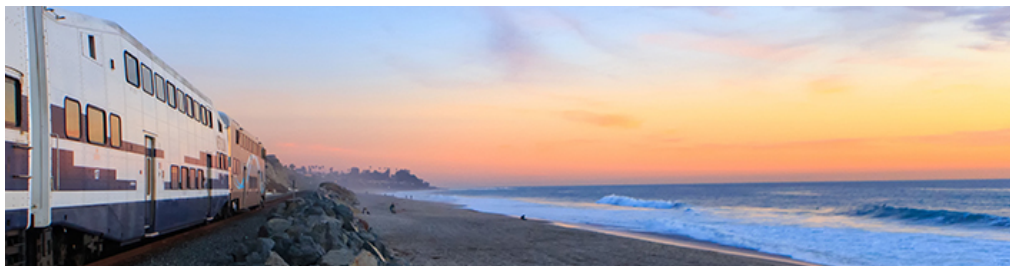
**Pasadena TMA** meets regularly; contact Talin Shahbazian at [tshahbazian@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:tshahbazian@cityofpasadena.net).

**Santa Monica TMO** meets regularly; contact [info@GoSaMoTMO.org](mailto:info@GoSaMoTMO.org), or call 213.425.0955.

**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 March 26 and April 30, 10 a.m. – 12 Noon.

**South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)** offers two-day ETC training via Zoom for \$222.98. March 5 and 7, March 19 and 21, April 2 and 4 and April 16 and 18. For more information, contact the South Coast AQMD’s training program at [etctraining@aqmd.gov](mailto:etctraining@aqmd.gov) or visit [aqmd.gov](http://aqmd.gov).



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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.

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