ONTHEGO

News for Your Employees

Download English Version

Download Spanish Version

Help Improve SoCal 511, Win $100

If your employees need travel help in Southern California, they can find it 24/7 at **SoCal511.com** or by calling 511.

The SoCal511 network features information from traffic speeds and travel times to transit routing, carpool matching, Park & Ride maps and more.

It is currently undergoing a revamp and is asking people to weigh in on what would make it a more valuable resource for both residents and visitors. **Complete a brief online survey** to share your input. When you do, you'll be entered into a drawing to win one of five $100 gift cards.

Spring ETC Marketing Workshop

The Spring Regional Virtual Marketing Workshop for ETCs is April 8, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. It will feature ways to market your rideshare program, details on Bike Month and more. Sign up information will be emailed or call your county rideshare representative.

The workshop qualifies attendees to receive a South Coast AQMD marketing certificate.

It is open to ETCs in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties.

SoCal 511 Can Help in an Emergency

SoCal 511 offers tools 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 the recent record-setting rainfall, for example, SoCal511.com 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

Calendar of Events

Download Commuter News

Download this Issue as PDF

Is Southland Traffic Worse than Ever?

In a word, yes, according to data from the **Urban Mobility Report,** a study that regularly tracks traffic levels across the nation. After dropping during the COVID-19 pandemic, congestion has equaled—and, in many places, surpassed—pre-pandemic levels.

For decades those patterns had remained steady. "Then came 2020, when congestion plunged during the pandemic lockdown. Now it's back and at record levels, with the average American spending 63 hours per year stuck in traffic," says David Shrank, lead author of the study.

Yearly Cost of Traffic Congestion Per Commuter*

Hours Spent Sitting in Traffic	137 HOURS
Excess Fuel Consumption	33 GALLONS
Annual Cost	$3,935

**Los Angeles-Orange*

In the Los Angeles-Orange County region, that number more than doubles to 137 hours wasted—six hours more than the year prior. That's the equivalent of nearly three and a half work weeks.

Riverside-San Bernardino ranked fourth, with commuters losing 95 hours a year to traffic tie-ups.

While rush-hour is still the worst time to drive, traffic congestion has spread to more times of the day and more days per week.

"The numbers show more traffic than we've ever seen, but also a different kind of traffic," Shrank added. "Hybrid work capabilities, online shopping and other changes in our daily lives have reshaped when and where congestion happens. This can create more unpredictability and make travel harder to plan."

3 Ways to Celebrate Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22, and it's a great time to remind employees how ridesharing can help reduce the emissions that cause smog. Here, we offer three ways to celebrate the day:

1. **Ride transit and ride free.** Motor vehicles are the cause of most of the emissions that cause smog. To encourage people to choose an alternative to driving alone, rides will be free all day on Metrolink, Metro Bus and Rail, as well as all San Bernardino County and Ventura County transit providers.
2. **Learn how you contribute to pollution.** Visit **CoolCalifornia.org** to quickly calculate your personal carbon footprint and learn ways to reduce it.
3. **Attend an Earth Day event.** Go to **earthday.org** to find out about virtual and in-person Earth Day events near you.

IE Commuter Earth Day Contest—Pledge to Rideshare, Win Prizes

IE Commuter is celebrating Earth Day throughout April. Commuters who live in Riverside or San Bernardino counties can join the Earth Day 2026 promotion and log their rideshare days.

Each trip logged is an extra entry into a prize drawing. The more you rideshare or telework, the better your chances to win.

Visit **IECommuter.org/EarthDay** to join the promotion and for more information, including a full list of prizes.

Open Now: ACT National Award Nominations

Doing an outstanding job as employee transportation coordinator? Are you proud of your rideshare marketing, your strategies or the plan you've prepared to promote alternatives to driving alone?

The Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) wants to know! It is accepting nominations for its annual awards until April 2.

Nominations must be submitted by an ACT member, but nominees do not need to be members. Self-nominations are accepted and encouraged.

Awards will be presented at the 40th annual International Conference on July 29 in Philadelphia, PA.

Find out more and submit nominations at **actweb.org.**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Don't Let Traffic Throw You a Curveball

Get to the stadium to cheer on the Dodgers without dealing with the hassle and expense of driving and parking.

Baseball fans can catch a Dodger Stadium Express bus from Union Station in downtown Los Angeles or from the Harbor Gateway Transit Plaza in Gardena. Rides are free.

Visit **metro.net** for details.

New Express Bus Directly to Cal Poly and Mt. SAC

Foothill Transit now offers an express bus between the San Dimas Metro A Line station and Cal Poly Pomona and Mt. San Antonio College. With fewer stops on its route, **Line 295 Campus Connect** is a quick and convenient option for staff and students to get to campus without a car.

The Latest News from Metro's Blog, The Source...

Could There Be a Subway Through the Santa Monica Mountains?

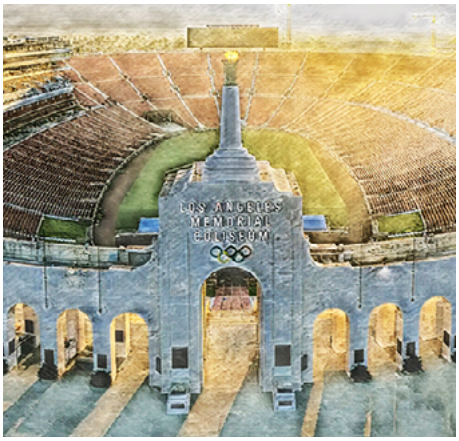
Metro recently selected a route for a **14-mile-long subway linking the San Fernando Valley and West Los Angeles.** An alternative to driving the 405 Freeway, the end-to-end trip would take only roughly 20 minutes.

The subway would run between the Van Nuys Metrolink Station in the Valley and the E Line's Expo/Sepulveda Station on the Westside.

At the Van Nuys end, it would connect riders to the Metro G Line and the future East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Project.

On the Westside, riders would have a station on UCLA's campus and easy transfers to the D Line and E Line.

Making Transportation a Gold Medal Experience During the Olympic Games



Congress approved $94.3 million in funding for transportation projects to **prepare for the influx of traffic during the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.**

"The 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games are a time for America to shine on the world stage–and we know that transportation will be a key part of the visitor experience," said Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins.

The funding will allow Metro to continue with plans that include light rail improvements, mobility hubs, improving pedestrian access near the Games venues and more.

ORANGE COUNTY

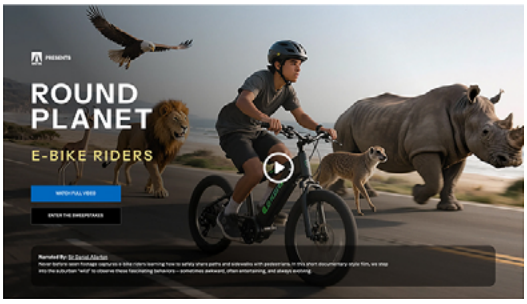
OCTA Free Wilderness Hikes

Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) oversees more than 1,300 acres of protected wilderness. To encourage people to appreciate the environment, they hold a series of guided wilderness hikes through these areas that are otherwise not open to the public.

Upcoming hikes are March 7 at Wren's View Preserve and July 25 at Pacific Horizon Preserve.

See the full schedule at **preservingourlegacy.org.**

Tips for Riding E-Bikes "in the Wild"



A new, short e-bike video from OCTA takes a lighthearted look at the challenges of mixing e-bikes with pedestrian and motor traffic. In the style of a mock nature documentary, it offers valuable safety tips for adult and youth riders.

Watch it at **octa.net/bike.** Then make a safety pledge for a chance to **win a $100 gift card.**

Ride Metrolink to the Swallows Day Parade—Enter to Win Tickets

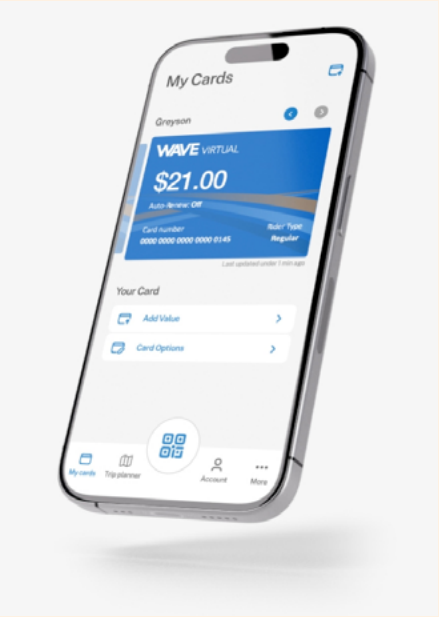
Skip traffic and parking hassles and **ride Metrolink to the Swallows Day Parade** and Mercado on March 21 in San Juan Capistrano. Enter a sweepstakes by March 11 for a chance to win Metrolink tickets to get to the parade.

OC Bus Switches to Wave App, Will Soon Discontinue Paper Passes

As of March 1, the former OC Bus mobile app has been discontinued. It has been replaced with the **Wave app,** which you can use to manage your OC Bus account and purchase fares.

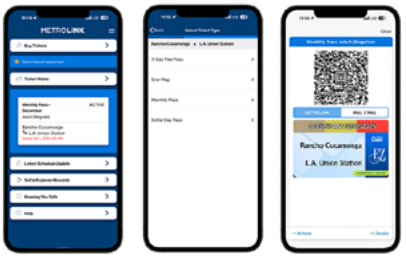
Another important deadline: April 30 is the final day that paper passes will be accepted on OC Bus. After that, riders will need to use the Wave app, a physical Wave card, a contactless credit or debit card, or cash for single rides (exact change required).

Find out more at **octa.net.**



RIVERSIDE/ SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

"Experience Metrolink" with 90 Days of Free Rides



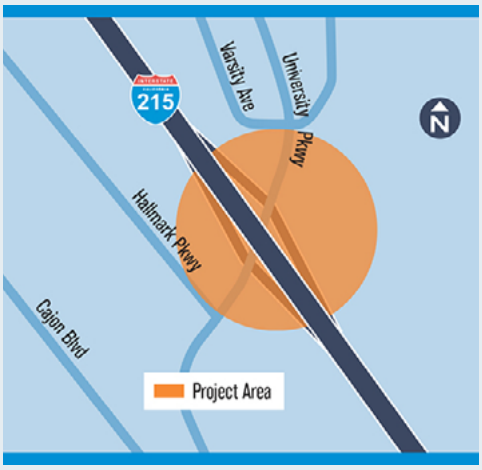
Did you know...? Residents of Riverside and San Bernardino counties are eligible to receive up to 90 days of free Metrolink train tickets.

It just takes three easy steps for commuters to sign up for the Experience Metrolink program:

1. **Download the Metrolink App** and create a Metrolink account using the same email linked to your IE Commuter account.
2. Create or log into your IE Commuter account.
3. Request your free tickets. They will appear in the Metrolink App Ticket Wallet within three business days.

Find out more at **IECommuter.org/RideFree.**

The Inland Empire to Open its First Diverging Diamond Interchange



San Bernardino motorists will soon be introduced to a new, efficient type of interchange: the diverging diamond. It is slated to open at the intersection of I-215 and University Parkway, near Cal State San Bernardino.

A diverging diamond interchange enhances traffic flow and improves safety. It allows more cars to pass through during a green light cycle. It also creates a safer center median sidewalk with concrete barriers between vehicles and pedestrians.

Vehicles turning or merging left onto I-215 will no longer have to cross oncoming traffic, reducing the risk of collisions.

Learn more about it at **gosbcta.com.**

VENTURA COUNTY

Ventura County Removes Emergency Call Boxes, Invests Savings in Alternate Motorist Aid Services

The next time you're traveling on the 101 or 118 freeways in Ventura County, you may notice something missing. All of the more than 400 emergency call boxes have been removed.

Due to the widespread use of cellphones, calls from roadside boxes in Ventura County dropped from more than 5,800 in 2005 to 849 in 2024.

Funds used for the call boxes are instead being reinvested into other motorist assistance programs, including **expanded Freeway Service Patrol coverage.** A fleet of tow trucks that patrol portions of Ventura County freeways during rush hour, Freeway Service Patrol offers assistance at no cost to stranded motorists. Services include changing flat tires, jump starting dead batteries, putting a gallon of fuel into gas tanks and, if necessary, towing inoperable vehicles to a safe location off the freeway.

Questions? Concerns? Contact VCTC

Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) welcomes your comments, questions and feedback about transportation in the county. Contact VCTC's Information Center to access information about VCTC programs and services—including trip planning—at 1.800.438.1112 or **ridercomments@goventura.org.**

CALENDAR

Events

The next OCTA free wilderness hike is March 7 at Wren's View Preserve, **preservingourlegacy.org.**

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

April is Earthquake Preparedness Month. Get your employees ready for commuting in crisis conditions; contact California's Office of Emergency Services at **caloes.ca.gov** or your local Red Cross office.

The Spring Virtual Marketing Workshop for ETCs is April 8, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. 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.**

May is National Bike Month, presented locally by the transportation agencies for Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties and traditionally featuring prizes, rides, rallies and more. Bike Week is May 11-15 and Bike to Work Day is May 14.

Continued on page 8

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 4 and April 1, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) offers two-day ETC training via Zoom for $237.81. The next scheduled sessions are March 10 and 12, April 7 and 9, and May 5 and 7. 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.**

Santa Monica TMO meets regularly; contact **info@gosamotmo.org** or call 213.425.0955.

ONTHEGO

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 99-24-1
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**

Commuter Information 511
SoCal511.com
Los Angeles/Orange/Ventura and Riverside/San Bernardino counties

Metro OCTA RCTC sbcta VCTC

Download Commuter News

Download this Issue as PDF