

On the Go

Rideshare News for Southern California Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETCs)

March/April 2015

News for Your
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5 Ways to Gear Up for **Bicycling's Big Week**

California's biggest bicycle event—Bike Week/ Bike to Work Week—is May 11-15, and the time to start getting your employees “pumped” about two-wheeled commuting is now.

Rideshare agencies throughout Southern California will be supporting the campaign with marketing outreach, prize drawings, events, freebies and more.

Here's what you can do to get ready:

- 1. Attend a bike prep event.** Find out the latest in bike resources and event news for your worksite at the



Association for Commuter Transportation's bike event/workshop on March 10, the **Orange County rideshare workshop** April 2 and **Metro Los Angeles workshop** April 9.

- 2. Check out Orange County's Bike Festival** on Sunday, April 26 at Huntington Beach Pier Plaza, and let your employees know about it, too. See the latest in bike gear and get free tune-ups/safety checks so your bike is commute-ready.

- 3. Plan a pit stop.** Throughout the week and especially on Bike to Work Day, Thursday, May 14, thousands of people will give bicycle commuting a try. Support their efforts by hosting a “pit stop” where cyclists in your area can rest

[More >](#)

The State's 5 Worst Bottlenecks Are...

Hint: They're all in Los Angeles and Orange counties

The worst traffic bottleneck in the California, according to an assessment recently released by Caltrans, is... a 5.8-mile stretch of Interstate 5, between the 710 and 605 Freeways. During peak hours, the trip can take 40 minutes or more, the agency reported.

- The rest of the top five are all in Los Angeles and Orange counties, together adding up to 2.5 million hours of delay per year for motorists traveling those routes. They are:
2. Northbound 405 through Costa Mesa and Fountain Valley in Orange County
 3. Southbound 170 through Valley Village and North Hollywood
 4. Southbound 101, west of the 405 interchange in Los Angeles
 5. Eastbound 60 Freeway in the Montebello area

To help ease the strain of traffic, Caltrans recommends of a mix of strategies including, of course, carpooling and vanpooling.



[Calendar of Events](#)

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...Bicycling's Big Week (Continued from page 1)

and have a snack. To find out how you can qualify for free giveaway items, and for vendor and support information, contact:

- Los Angeles County: metro.net/bikes/bike-week
- Orange County: Nathan Wheadon at nwheadon@octa.net
- Ventura County: commuterservices@goventura.org

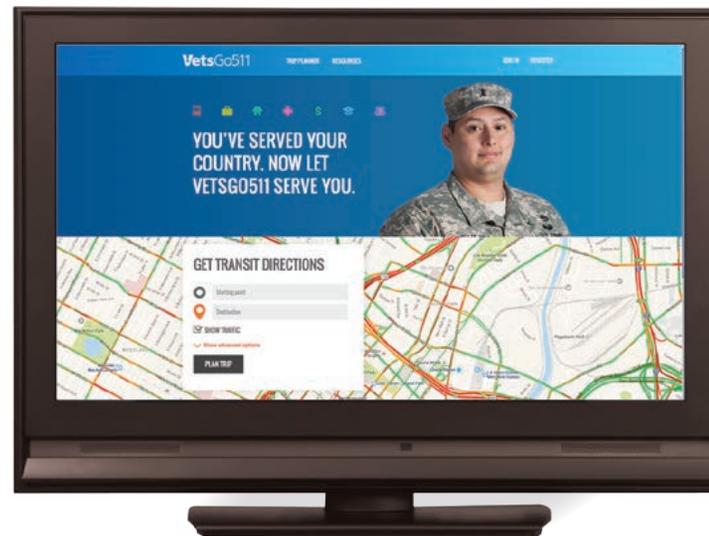


4. Expand your pool of potential riders by promoting a bike-transit mix.

Employees don't have to pedal all the way to work to reap the benefits of bike commuting. They can bike as far as a nearby transit stop and stow their bikes, use the bus bike rack or bring it on board Metrolink or Metro Rail.

- ### 5. Help employees find a route & a bike buddy.
- Fear of mixing with traffic often stops people from trying bicycle commuting. Let employees know about sites that help them find the safest, shortest route, such as [Google maps](#) (select "bicycling" from the pull down menu), [mapmyride.com](#)—or distribute maps (or links to maps) for **Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino** or **Ventura** counties. For help finding someone to cycle with, visit ridematch.info and labiketrails.com.

Look for Bike Week/Bike to Work Week event updates in the May/June issue of *On the Go*.



You've Served Your Country; Now Let VetsGo511 Serve You



Are you—or do you know—a veteran who needs help finding work, education, healthcare or transportation options? VetsGo511.com is a new, online tool geared to connect veterans and others in the military community with local resources.

The transportation assistance section includes:

- An online trip planner for Southern California transit
- Resources such as bike- and car-sharing
- Carpool matching
- Links to special discounts available to veterans
- Information on how to get rides to healthcare facilities
- Other transportation options available to veterans.

VetsGo511 also provides access to help with employment, housing, healthcare, finance and education.

So. Cal Earns High Scores in High-Tech

Out of the top 70 US cities, Los Angeles ranks an impressive fourth in technology-enabled transportation services, according to a recent report from the California Public Interest Research Group.

Thanks to the availability of popular tech options like online routing, mobile apps and real-time arrival data, Southland commuters have “abundant choices” to find transportation options, the report said.

Austin, Texas ranked first, followed by San Francisco and Washington D.C.

To determine rankings, the report compared cities based on access to 11 tech-based transit services and tools, from ridesharing and bikesharing to virtual ticketing. It is these types of services, the study asserted, that make it easier for Americans — millennials in particular — to use their cars less or not at all.

To view the full report, “The Innovative Transportation Index: The Cities Where New Technologies and Tools Can Reduce Your Need to Own a Car,” [click here](#).



Mobile Apps for the Commute

Mobile apps make it easier to find and use alternatives to driving, and available apps include those that track where and when a bus will arrive and provide up-to-the-minute traffic updates, transit directions, bus/rail routing and more. Most are free and available for a variety of formats.

- **Los Angeles County:** Metro and third party apps including Go Metro Los Angeles v3.0, Go511 App, Simple Trip Planner, LA Metro Transit Watch and more
- **Orange County:** OCTA and third party apps, including the real-time transit app and Moovit
- **San Bernardino:** The IE511 mobile app gives real-time traffic maps, bus schedules, carpool lanes and other services available for Inland Empire travelers
- **Ventura County:** The VCTC App Corner features the Smart Ride real-time transit app, as well as bikeways apps

What Kind of Bike Are You?

Take this short online quiz to see **what type of bike you need** to get you where you're going— whether on errands or work or riding just to get fit.



Los Angeles

Metro Subways to Get WiFi

Metro recently announced its plans to install WiFi and cell service in underground stations. The plan is to bring WiFi to the Red/Purple Line subway stations between Union Station and 7th/Metro Center in May with cell service by August. The rest of the Red/Purple Line and the Gold Line tunnels would be completed from late 2015 through March 2017.

Spring Is Here & So Is the Dodger Stadium Express

Good news for baseball fans who aren't fans of sitting in traffic: The



Dodger Stadium Express will again offer free service between Los Angeles Union Station or Harbor Gateway Transit Center and Dodger Stadium for those holding game tickets. It is expected to be up and running in time for the opening game on April 6.

For more information, visit metro.net/around/dodger-stadium-express/.

Metro Video Takes on Love... and Bus/Rail Manners

Whether you're looking for love, or simply for a commute that you love, it's more likely to happen if you practice proper bus/rail etiquette. That's the idea behind a fun new video from Metro — the first in a series designed to educate riders in an entertaining way about transit "do's and don'ts."



Watch it here.



Orange

Start an OC Vanpool with Just Five Riders & Earn Rewards

To make it easier to get vanpools started, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) has lowered the minimum occupancy required to qualify as a vanpool and is also offering special limited-time incentives.

It is now possible to start a 7-person vanpool with just five riders. Not only will 5-person vanpools count as a trip-reduction strategy for employers under clean air mandates, but these vanpools may also be able to receive \$400 subsidy from OCTA per van per month.

In addition, ETCs can earn a \$50 gift card and be entered into a

drawing to win an iPad for every new vanpool formed between March 16 and April 30. The new vanpool groups will receive an additional \$450 discount on lease costs for the first three months (\$150 per month) along with a \$100 prepaid gas card.

For more information, contact Kristopher Hewkin at 714.560.5331, khewkin@octa.net or visit octa.net/vanpool.

Celebrate the Return of the Whales and Swallows

Kick off the **Festival of Whales** at the Orange Metrolink station on March 7, starting at 9 a.m. for free food, live music and prizes—plus the first 50 people will receive a free Metrolink ticket. After the kickoff event, the train will depart for the festival at 10:08 a.m. (If you don't get a free ticket, [More >](#)



Metrolink Weekend Day Pass is only \$10, with free shuttle service to event locations.)

Then on March 21, the party moves to the Tustin Metrolink station, where the first 50 people will receive a free round-trip ticket to San Juan Capistrano for the **Swallows' Day Parade and Mercado**. The kickoff starts at 8:30 a.m. and the train departs at 9:36 a.m.

All Aboard the Angels Express

The Angels Express begins April 10, offering special discount Metrolink service to Angel home games. The trains run every weeknight on the Orange County Line and every Friday night on the Inland Empire-Orange

County Line, taking riders straight to the stadium's parking.

The Angels Express costs just \$7 round trip, \$6 for senior/disabled and \$4 for youth (ages 6 – 18). Children 5 and younger can ride free with a paying adult (up to three children). Tickets may not be purchased prior to game day.

Visit angels.com/angelsexpress

for dates and tickets,
plus a chance to

buy game
tickets
at 50%
off.



San Bernardino

Big Changes Over at IE511...

The Inland Empire's online traffic and commuter resource, **IE511.org**, now has a new look, along with features that make it easier for people to find the transportation help they need.

Improvements include improved functionality, higher GPS accuracy and better compatibility when using the site's features with mobile devices.

IE511 now also links directly to the IE Commuter webpage, where people can sign up to find carpool or vanpool partners and get customized information about alternate commute options such as bicycling and transit.

New Park & Ride Lots

The following Park & Ride lots recently opened in San Bernardino County:

- City of Chino Hills Parking Structure, 13952 City Center Drive - Top Deck
- sbX Redlands Blvd. Parking Facility, 10554 Anderson St., Loma Linda
- sbX Palm & Kendall Parking Facility, 3165 Kendall Dr., San Bernardino
- San Bernardino County Fairgrounds, 14800 7th St., Victorville

For Park & Ride lot information in the Inland Empire, visit IE511.org/park-and-ride-lots.aspx

[More >](#)





Ride Metrolink to the Auto Club 400

If you're headed to the Auto Club 400 NASCAR race at Fontana's Auto Club Speedway on March 22, get out of traffic and ride free on Metrolink from Oceanside, Oxnard and Lancaster with multiple station stops to the speedway.

Free train tickets will be offered to a limited number of race fans with support from the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC). If you miss out on a free ticket, you can purchase a discounted \$19 round-trip fare.

For details, go to metrolinktrains.com or autoclubspeedway.com.

Ventura

Bus Service Coming to the Heritage Valley

Local fixed-route buses are coming to the Heritage Valley!

The Valley Express will soon be serving the communities of Fillmore, Piru, and Santa Paula. It will utilize five 23-passenger vehicles along local routes to connect residents to key destinations, running from 5:40 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. on weekdays and 7:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. on weekends.

The Valley Express is expected to roll out in March.

Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) will continue to offer existing Dial-A-Ride service in the area.



Now Open: New VCTC Intercity Bus Park & Ride

A VCTC Intercity Bus stop opened on the south side of Danvers River St., between Oxnard and RiverPark Boulevards, serving the VCTC Highway 101 route. Parking for those transferring to the bus is available in the adjacent lot.

For details on this and other Ventura County Park & Ride lots, visit goventura.org/?q=rideshare/park-ride.

Have Ideas for the Future of Transportation in Ventura County?

Here's your chance to be heard. VCTC is seeking residents of Fillmore, Ojai, Oxnard, and Santa

Paula to fill vacant positions on its Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee. The committee will review findings of VCTC's recent Unmet Needs Hearings and look at potential funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, September to May, at 1:30 p.m. at the Ventura County Government Center.

For more information or to apply, contact Donna Cole, 805.642.1591, ext. 101, dcole@goventura.org.



Calendar

Telecommuter Appreciation Week is March 1-7, sponsored by the American Telecommuting Association, 1.800.ATA4YOU, yourata.com.



Festival of Whales kickoff is March 7, 9 a.m. at the Orange Metrolink Station; first 50 people will receive a free Metrolink ticket—plus there's a free shuttle from the station to the festival, octa.net.

ACT bike event/workshop and marketing certificate workshop is March 10, socialact.org.

Take Metro to watch the LA Marathon, March 15; lamarathon.com, route and schedule information is at metro.net.

Swallows' Day Parade and Mercado kickoff is March 21, 8:30 a.m. at the Tustin Metrolink station; first 50 people will receive a Metrolink ticket, octa.net.

Orange County Transportation Authority will host a rideshare workshop and marketing certificate class on April 2.

April is Earthquake Preparedness Month; get your employees ready for commuting in crisis conditions, contact oes.ca.gov or your local Red Cross office.

Metro will host a marketing certificate workshop April 9 at Metro offices in Los Angeles; learn about Bike Week events and more, contact rideshare@metro.net.

Earth Day is April 22, earthday.org



OCTA Bike Festival at Huntington Beach Pier Plaza is April 26, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., with a freestyle BMX show, bike safety course led by local police, helmet decorating, free tune-ups, dozens of vendors with the latest in bike gear, and more, octa.net.

Association for Commuter Transportation Southern California conference is April 30-May 1, socialact.org.

Network Meetings

Century City TMO serves businesses in the Century City area; contact Linda Paradise Lyles, 310.453.1714, linda@cctmo.org.

Glendale TMA meets regularly; call 818.543.7641.

IE Commuter offers bi-annual meetings for ETCs in the Inland Empire; call 1.866.IECS4HELP.

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

Pasadena TMA meets regularly; call Jenny Cristales, 626.744.7464.

Santa Monica ETC Network meets regularly; call 310.458.8956.

South Bay/Westside TMA meets monthly; contact Christina Corrales at 310.642.0066, email christina_corrales@equityoffice.com

Torrance Transportation Network meets regularly; call Kim Fuentes at 310.784.7902

Warner Center TMO meets monthly; call 818.716.5520.

Training

Metro Rideshare upcoming briefings—

where Los Angeles area employers can learn about the transportation survey process and services Metro has to offer—are March 18, 9:30–11:30 a.m. and April 15, 1-3 p.m. To reserve your space, email rideshare@metro.net.

South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) offers **one-day ETC training** for \$166.59. Upcoming sessions are March 5 and April 9 at AQMD offices in Diamond Bar, March 18 in Irvine and April 23 at Los Angeles Metro. Contact the 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.

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Commuter Information 511

Go511.com
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IE511.org

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