



WORKPLACE CONNECTION

Third Quarter 2015



Consider Vanpooling with friendly Los Angeles County Employees

By Juan Arredondo

"I can say that one of the best things for me about vanpooling is building relationships amongst riders. Another benefit is saving wear and tear on my personal vehicle. I've been commuting since 1991 and I was one of the first vanpoolers when the County started its Vanpool Program," says Ingrid Fontenot, a coordinator for a vanpool coming from Rialto to the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration (HOA).

In the last couple of years, vanpooling to work has been on the rise in Los Angeles County. At the HOA alone, the number of vanpools to downtown Los Angeles has more than tripled since 2012.

Park and Ride lots are a good place to meet with vanpool and carpool groups, saving gas and the wear and tear on personal vehicles. If you calculate the savings per person, a six person vanpool can save

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In this issue

- ▶ Ever wonder about vanpooling? Read about the County's vanpool program and some of the vanpools from the Civic Center.
- ▶ Ridesharing is not complicated, but there are some tips and trips that will help your commute go a lot easier.
- ▶ Free Shuttle information will help you get around at no charge.

Workplace Connection Notice of Corrective Action

The Los Angeles County Office of Workplace Programs and Marketing has determined that it did not use proper citation and attribution language in prior versions of its newsletter "Workplace Connection."

We have instituted corrective actions, which include training. We apologize for the error.



Photo Courtesy of Metro. @ 2012 LACMTA

New Ridesharer Tips and Tricks

by Juan Arredondo

The County's annual Average Vehicle Ridership (AVR) survey data shows that there are still plenty of Los Angeles County employees who have yet to step on a bus or commuter train to reach their work location. LA County Rideshare expects that the following list of tips and tricks will help you in your transition on becoming a long-term Rideshare participant:

- 1** Sign-up for the Commuter Benefit Plan (CBP)
– The CBP saves County employees money by allowing for public transportation expenses to be deducted from your pay on a pre-tax basis. In addition, the CBP offers an option for vanpool deductions as well. For more information contact the current County's approved vendor – Wageworks
- 2** Plan Your Route – You should plan how you will get to your destination using tools like these:
 - ▶ Metro's trip planner – this will help you find the right bus, rail or train to take.
 - ▶ Google transit – in addition to multiple public transit options, this can also provide the fastest or most efficient route if you want to vanpool or carpool to your destination.
 - ▶ Go to www.go511.com for a traffic map, road conditions or to find public transit, carpool or a vanpool.
 - ▶ Dial 511 on your phone (or 1-877-22-GO511) and use the system's voice prompts to obtain any kind of Rideshare assistance, such as finding a carpool or a vanpool match or the nearest Park-and-Ride lot.
- 3** Get There Early – When you take your new route, try to get there early the first couple of times. You may find that there is a specific etiquette at places where Ridesharers frequently wait for a bus or train. Don't be shy - ask questions. There is a good chance that another commuter will answer your question.
- 4** Allow Extra Time – If you do not know the length of your first commute, give yourself extra time. There is a learning curve to each new beginning. Things like learning exactly where your stop is, might take up more of your time.
- 5** Keep Going - Once you know what to expect on your commute on public transit, you will know where you have more time to relax, read or get a jump start on the workday ahead.
- 6** Set An Alarm – You may want to set an alarm to alert you before your stop is due, just in case you fall asleep or you get too absorbed in a good book. Most cellphones have an alarm feature. After all the time taken to plan your route and arrival times, missing your stop is the last thing you should be worrying about as that will surely delay your commute.

Ridesharing is simple once it is planned. Best of all, Ridesharing saves lives. If you find that you saved money and/or time compared to driving alone, then help us by spreading the word or by sending us a message on our website - www.rideshare.lacounty.gov where you will find even more information on ridesharing in L.A. County.

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an estimated \$3,569.60 per year per person compared to driving alone according to the commutesmart.info Commute Cost Calculator.

L.A. Metro assists with vanpooling costs. Currently, Metro's vanpool program subsidizes about 1,300 vanpools in Los Angeles County. The number of vanpools in 2014 has almost quadrupled since the start of the program in 2007. According to Metro's growth statistics, approximately 8,000 passengers are transported in those vanpools each weekday.

Metro's vanpool program also cites average commute times of approximately one hour and average distances of around 47 miles. The combined average of 47 miles per hour is perhaps faster than what most people experience during the morning commute to work.

At Metro's vanpool presentations, it is consistently mentioned that vanpoolers list their top three reasons for vanpooling as: saving money, less wear and tear on personal vehicles and saving time. At L.A. County Rideshare we hear the same consistent comments.

For example - Sandra Sevire, a vanpooler from Riverside County, has vanpooled for about two years. She said: "Prior to vanpooling, I was carpooling to work, and before that I had been riding the Metrolink for about 10 years. My commute is about 70 miles from Riverside, and I save lots of time by vanpooling." Surella Murphy of the Lancaster vanpool to the HOA said: "I've been vanpooling for about four or five years now. You never know from day to day what you'll find on the road, but vanpooling has saved me money and time in getting to and from work."

Starting a vanpool is easy and Los Angeles County Rideshare is working with the two local vanpool companies, vRide and Enterprise vanpool, to increase vanpooling countywide. "I didn't have any problems starting a vanpool," said Patty Almaguer, a coordinator for a vanpool

Calendar of Events

Employee Transportation Coordinator Training Dates

November 5

AQMD ETC
Certification class
Diamond Bar, CA

November 19

AQMD ETC
Certification class
San Bernardino, CA

November 10

AQMD ETC
Certification class
Diamond Bar, CA

coming from West Covina to the HOA. Then she added: "I have been vanpooling for about two years and I think it's a great way to get to work."

Eddie Washington, L.A. County's Transportation Program Manager, has headed Rideshare L.A. County since 2011. "Vanpool as a rideshare method has more potential for growth. I think the vans offer a higher level of comfort and a certain level of privacy as well. I would implement methods like increased marketing and researching more funds for subsidizing vanpooling to make it the number one method of ridesharing because of the positive impact it has on the environment by removing multiple vehicles from the road."

L.A. County Employees can get more information about vanpooling and Ridesharing at www.rideshare.lacounty.gov or contacting the Countywide Rideshare office at 213-974-2619.

rideshare.lacounty.gov



Free Shuttles

Shuttle services listed are free and may have restrictions. Please contact the person listed below if you have any questions.

Site Number and Name:	Pick-up Points	Hours of Operation:	Contact:
Child Support Services Department (CSSD) Commerce	Pick up: Commerce Metrolink Station Drop-off/Pick-up: 5770 S. Eastern Avenue Commerce, CA 90040	Arrive at CSSD 5770, 5:45am, 6:45am, 7:15am, 7:52am Pick up time from CSSD 5770, 4:32pm, 5:12pm, 5:45pm, 6:17pm	Maria Castaneda at (323) 889-6408 or Montebello Shuttle Services at (562) 862-2118
Probation Central Juvenile Hall	Site provides shuttle service to and from Union Station to Worksite		Mark Molina 323-226-8700
ISD Headquarters Eastern	Union Station to/from ISD CSULA Busway/ Metrolink station to/from ISD	For the Union Station ISD van: van leaves Union Station at 6:00am and leaves ISD Headquarters for Union Station at 4:45pm (Monday through Thursday only) For Metrolink Station shuttle - see Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court Shuttle Service brochure	Al Harvey 323-881-4694 al.harvey@isd.lacounty.gov or call (626) 458-3909 or visit www.lagobus.info
ISD DOWNEY	Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Metrolink to/from ISD Downey Montebello Train Station to/from ISD Downey	Monday through Friday Norwalk Metrolink to ISD: 6:30 am ISD to Norwalk Metrolink: 5:00 pm Montebello station to ISD: 5:45 am ISD to Montebello Station: 4:40 pm	Rhonda Baldwin (562)940-2265 or rbaldwin@isd.lacounty.gov
Department of Public Works Headquarters—Alhambra	Union Station to/from DPW Cal State LA to/from DPW	Union Station to DPW (1 shuttle) Monday thru Thursday Union Station to DPW @ 6:10am DPW to Union Station @ 5:25pm Cal State LA to DPW Shuttle (2 shuttles) Monday thru Thursday Cal State LA to DPW @ 6:10am DPW to Cal State LA @ 5:13pm Cal State LA to DPW (1 Shuttle) Monday thru Friday Cal State LA to DPW @ 6:20am DPW to Cal State LA @ 4:00pm	Elisa Renteria (626) 458-4084 erenteri@dpw.lacounty.gov or Jeff Cruz (626) 458-4987 jecruz@dpw.lacounty.gov
DCFS Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court	CSULA Busway/ Metrolink station Children's Court Sheriff's HQ ISD Fire Department	This Shuttle Operates Monday Through Friday (except holidays) between 6:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. (see brochure for more details)	Public Works (626) 458-3909 or visit www.lagobus.info for other shuttles