

Get Rolling for Bike Week

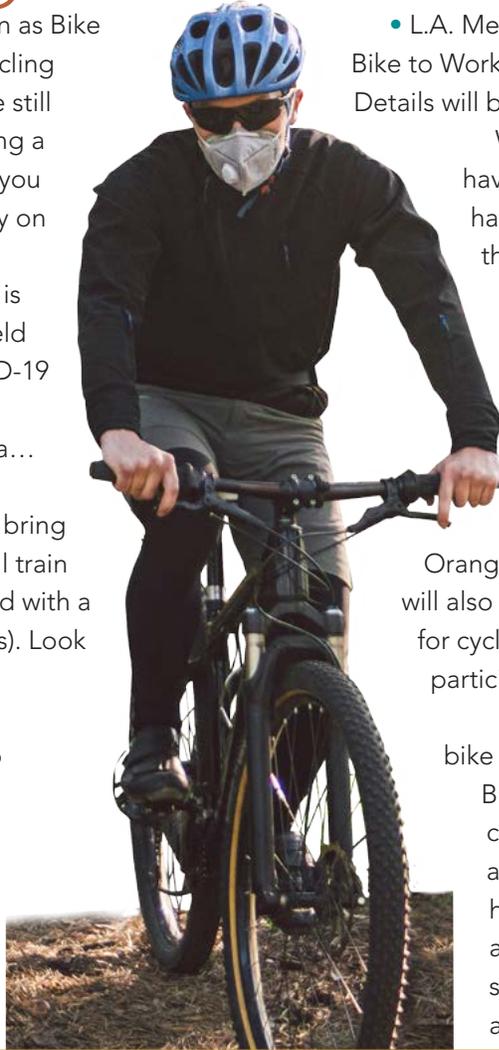
National Bike to Work Week (also known as Bike Week) is Sept. 21-27, and it will focus on cycling as a way to get where you need to go while still following social distancing guidelines. Riding a bike instead of driving alone can also help you squeeze in a workout while you save money on gas and reduce your carbon footprint.

For 2020 only, the Bike Week campaign is happening in lieu of Bike Month, usually held in May but canceled this year due to COVID-19 concerns.

What's happening in Southern California...

- Join Metrolink for Bike to Work Day, Tuesday, Sept. 22. Ride to the station, then bring your bike on board (bikes are allowed on all train cars, and there are special Bike Cars marked with a yellow decal that accommodate more bikes). Look for details on [Metrolink's Twitter page](#) or at [metrolinktrains.com](#).

If you're concerned about being able to keep a safe distance from other passengers on the train, use Metrolink's [How Full Is My Train? app](#). It shows how full any particular train is each day. (Metrolink also is adding trains or increasing frequency to keep ridership at 30% or below as much as possible.)



- L.A. Metro will celebrate Bike Week and Bike to Work Day by hosting virtual activities. Details will be posted at [metro.net/bikemonth](#).

Want to join in the fun but don't have a bike? [Metro Bike Share](#) has bikes at dozens of locations throughout Los Angeles County.

- In Orange County, register each time you ride your bike Sept. 21-27 at [octa.net/BiketoWorkWeek](#) to qualify to win a Trek 2 bike and Saris Bones 2-Bike bike rack. The more times you ride the more chances you have to win.

Orange County Transportation Authority will also be issuing daily challenges for cycling locally so teleworkers can participate as well.

- In Ventura County, pledge to bike instead of driving alone during Bike Week for a chance to win gift cards. You can make the pledge at [goventura.org](#) whether you're heading out on errands, to a doctor's appointment, to essential work or simply getting out and about as an alternative to the gym.

Are These 3 Things Keeping Employees from Biking to Work?

1. No incentives or kudos. Cycling sometimes gets left behind when employers are establishing rideshare incentives. Sure, it's a low-cost way to commute, but providing some boost can increase motivation. Some incentives don't have to cost a thing. How about profiling cyclists in your rideshare newsletter or offering a "cyclist of the month" award?

[More >](#)

If Employees Are Returning to the Worksite...

Get a (Free) Handy Guide for Managing Employee Commutes During COVID-19

The question for many ETCs last March was, "How do I help employees effectively telework?" Now, as employees at some companies are starting to come back to the

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Returning to the Worksite...

(continued from page 1)

office, the question becomes, “How can I help them commute safely while still allowing for alternatives to driving alone?”

It’s an important question, and the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) is offering answers in a free handbook: *Supporting Commuters Returning to Worksites During COVID-19*.

It outlines specific strategies ETCs can put in place at the worksite, as well as offering tips for safe commuting that they can pass on to employees.

According to ACT, just 7% of US employers offered the option of telework prior to the pandemic, and it’s expected many companies will continue to encourage employees to work at home where feasible. “While we encourage employees to continue to work from home, we know that over the coming months, millions of commuters will be asked to return to their worksites,” said David Straus, ACT executive director. “We hope that this document can serve as a valuable resource to help them feel safe in the mode they choose.”



The guide includes sections on:

- Carpool/vanpool
- Micromobility (bikes, skateboards, walking, etc.)
- Parking
- Public transit
- Shuttles

Since telework is likely to remain an important part of the mix during the pandemic and beyond, ACT also offers suggestions to manage employees who continue to work at home.

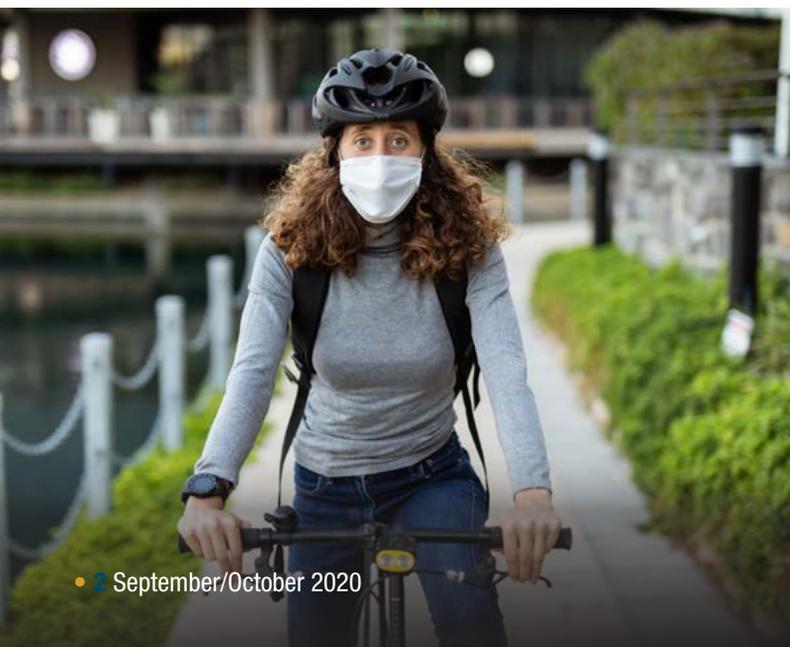
Prepared by a task force of transportation demand management professionals representing service providers, employers, and government agencies, the handbook is available for [free download at actweb.org](https://actweb.org).

...Biking to Work (continued from page 1)

2. Your worksite is bike “unfriendly.” Is there a safe spot to lock their bikes? Can they keep them in the office? Is there a place to shower and change? Make sure your worksite addresses these needs.

3. They’re afraid of mixing with traffic. The route they’d ride isn’t necessarily the same as they’d drive. Let them know about apps like [MapMyRide.com](https://mapmyride.com) or [Strava.com](https://strava.com) that provide routing with an emphasis on wide streets and bike paths.

And as a bonus to make your worksite extra bike friendly, be sure to let them know about any Bike Week promotions happening locally.



A Word About **Rideshare Week...**

Rideshare Week—scheduled for the first work week in October—is taking a one-year hiatus (but will be back again in 2021 to mark its 32nd year in Southern California!).

The annual campaign urges commuters to use alternatives to driving alone for less traffic and clean air.

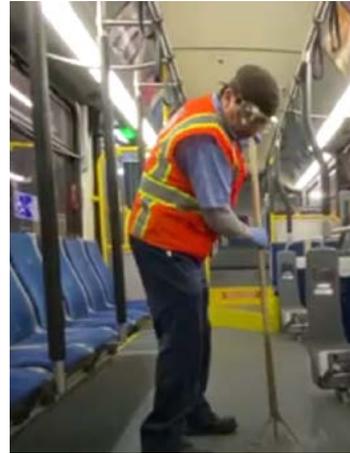
Rideshare Week may be on hold, but essential workers still need options such as bus and rail to get to their jobs—especially if they don't have access to a vehicle or can't afford to drive.

The Rideshare Week agencies would like to thank Southern California's transit workers who have gone the extra mile to make bus and rail safe and available to those who need it. Not only have they kept service running during difficult circumstances, but they've rolled out extra safety measures, such as increased cleaning and social distancing protocol.

So even though there isn't an official Rideshare Week campaign for 2020, why not take the opportunity during the week to thank a transit essential worker?

As for Rideshare Week, see you next year!

Rideshare Week in Southern California is sponsored each year by L.A. Metro, Orange County Transportation Authority, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority and Ventura County Transportation Commission.



Changes in Transportation **Survey Policy**

For Worksites in the South Coast Air Basin...

On July 25, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) issued a second 90-day extension to employers that are due to submit their annual survey or transportation plan.

The automatic extension only applies to employers that have plans due through Sept. 30 (unless notified otherwise by the South Coast AQMD).

This is an optional extension. If you want to conduct your transportation survey as scheduled, the South Coast AQMD is prepared to work with you on it. The agency also notes that with widespread telework due to the pandemic, it expects that most employers will be able to meet their average vehicle ridership target.

Contact the South Coast AQMD for the most current policies regarding Rule 2202 as the agency continues to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

For Worksites in Ventura County...

The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District is providing a 2-month extension to employers currently receiving notices to conduct Rule 211 surveys during this period.

Employers subject to **Rule 211** are required to conduct an employee commute survey once every two years.

District staff is also working with employers on a case-by-case basis to alleviate other issues arising from the pandemic. Employers may contact Ben Cacatian at ben@vcapcd.org for more information.



National Drive Electric Week

National Drive Electric Week is Sept. 26-Oct. 4, and celebrates this clean-air way to commute. If you already drive an all-electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle, you'll find ways to get more from the experience. If you've been thinking of going electric, you'll find events and networking opportunities (in-person and online) that'll give you information to help you make the plunge.

The week kicks off in Los Angeles with a [national online event on Sept. 24](#), 5-6:15 p.m. (PT)—RSVP for a chance to win \$250.

Find details and a list of all events at [driveelectricweek.org](#).



Los Angeles

How Full Is My Bus?



[Metro's official smartphone app, Transit](#), has a new feature that uses recent ridership numbers to predict how crowded a particular Metro bus most likely is. Just tap on the bus icon you'll get an indication of how full—or empty—you can expect your bus to be.

This will allow riders to see if the bus will allow room for social distancing. If not, they can decide if they want to wait for another one or find a different way to get where they need to go.

In the app, riders will see if their bus falls into one of three categories of seating capacity being used:

- "Usually many seats available" — 0-33%
- "Usually seats available" — 34-85%
- "Usually standing room only" — 85% or more

According to Metro, it is currently running nearly 80% of its pre-pandemic service and is at 40% of its pre-pandemic ridership. That means most buses and trains have room for social distancing at most hours of the day.

In addition, all LA Metro riders are also required to wear face coverings.

The Transit app is available for free download on [Google Play](#) and the Apple [App Store](#).

Get Updates on Metro Projects at Virtual Meetings

Metro has taken its workshops and community meetings online. Find out about projects that impact your employees' commutes from the comfort of your computer.

Topics for upcoming meetings in September include the Purple Line extension, the Regional Connector and the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project, among others.

The calendar, available at [metro.net](#), is updated on an ongoing basis.



Orange

OC Bus Distributes Free Face Coverings

OCTA passed out more than 11,000 free face coverings on three of its busiest routes in the first two weeks of a pilot project aimed to protect riders' health. [More >](#)



...Face Masks (continued from page 4)

The state requires that passengers wear face coverings on public transit. OCTA buses are equipped with onboard dispensers on the following routes:

- Route 43
- Bravo! Route 543 that runs along Harbor Boulevard between Fullerton and Costa Mesa
- Route 66, which runs along McFadden Avenue between Huntington Beach and Irvine

OCTA plans to make free face coverings available on additional bus routes in the coming weeks.

For more information, visit

octa.net.

OCTA Welcomes Its First All-Electric Vanpool Van

OCTA's Vanpool Program now has a Tesla X on the road—its first all-electric vanpool vehicle. Five vanpoolers ride 140 miles round trip from near Murrieta in southern Riverside County to Seal Beach—a significant saving in emissions.



Currently, the vanpool program has 164 active vehicles (down from about 470 operating prior to the Coronavirus pandemic).

OCTA helps cover about 25% of the cost of operating the vanpools each month.

For more information, go to octa.net/vanpool.

Riverside/San Bernardino

Omnitrans to Restore Bus Service & Add OmniRide



Omnitrans will introduce new routes and restore service on some of its most popular bus routes on Sept. 8. (Service had been reduced due to COVID-19 and the stay-at-home orders earlier this year). Among the changes:

- Route 81 will now connect with the Ontario-East Metrolink station.
- Route 87 will extend into the Riverside County Line to serve the Eastvale Amazon distribution

warehouses along Goodman Avenue.

In other big news: Omnitrans is launching OmniRide, the San Bernardino Valley's first-ever microtransit service. It will provide on-demand service to residents and commuters within the Chino and Chino Hills region. Fare is \$4, and reservations are made using the OmniRide mobile app (similar to Uber or Lyft). During September, riders can "buy one ride, get one free."

For more information, go to omnitrans.org.

Students Ride Free on RTA

Most college students and anyone 18 and younger can ride Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) buses for free through June 2021.

To ride, students at participating colleges will use a free mobile ticketing app. Youth 18 and under will need to show valid ID to the driver. Once aboard, they can ride anywhere RTA buses go, anytime they operate.

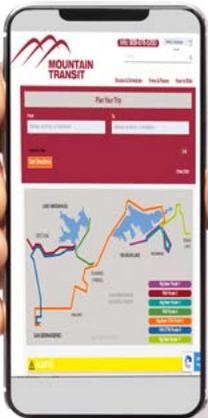
Details are at riversidetransit.com.

Introducing...Token Transit

Mountain Transit is now using the **Token Transit app**. It allows riders to purchase bus fare, and then tap their smartphone to ride.

[More >](#)





Token Transit (continued from page 5)

Mountain Transit provides service throughout the rural San Bernardino Mountain communities of the Big Bear Valley, Crestline, Lake Arrowhead, and Running Springs.

Download the app at mountaintransit.org.

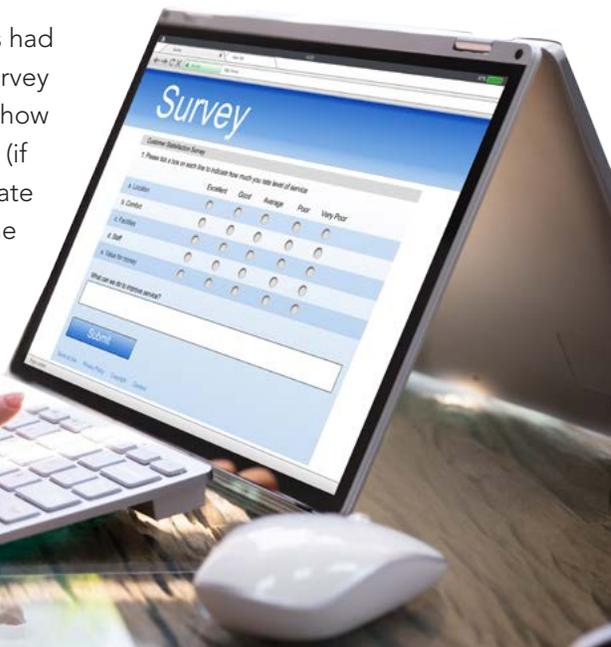
Ventura

What's Happening with Your Commute?

Ventura County residents had a chance to weigh in on a survey that posed questions about how they're currently commuting (if at all), and what they anticipate they'll do if and when it's time to return to the worksite.

With nearly 400 responses, the survey was conducted by the Association for Commuter Transportation in partnership with Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) and other local agencies. Some findings...

- Nearly half of those surveyed (48%) are still working from home temporarily.
 - 5% never have access to a vehicle for their commute; 8% can only use one occasionally.
 - 20% plan to change their primary mode of commuting when they return to work.
 - 59% would not be comfortable using public transit after the pandemic.
 - More than 80% said reduced crowding would make them more comfortable using shared modes.
- The goal of the survey was to find out commuters' needs in returning to work so that employers and transit providers put in place policies to ensure they can do so reliably and safely.



The Art of Transit

VCTC will partner with seven Boys and Girls Clubs for an art contest again this fall. The winning art will be proudly displayed on VCTC Intercity buses later this year. To see last year's winning artwork, visit goventura.org.

Go511 for Daily Updates

Get the latest transportation information due to COVID-19 at go511.com. The website posts daily updates on freeways, express lanes, toll roads and transit providers throughout Southern California—including closures, fare and route changes, rules for riding, service expansions and more.



Clarification:

The last issue of *On the Go* mentioned that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power issued computers to some teleworking employees. It should have stated that they issued VPN access to employees so that they could access the department servers.



Calendar

On Labor Day, Sept. 7, ride Metrolink, all day, anywhere you need to go for the special holiday fare of \$10.

Bike Week (also called Bike to Work Week) is Sept. 21-27, with Bike to Work Day on Tuesday, Sept. 22.



World Car-Free Day is Sept. 22.



National Drive Electric Week is Sept. 26-Oct. 4, with a virtual kickoff event Sept. 25, 5-6:15 p.m., driveelectricweek.org.

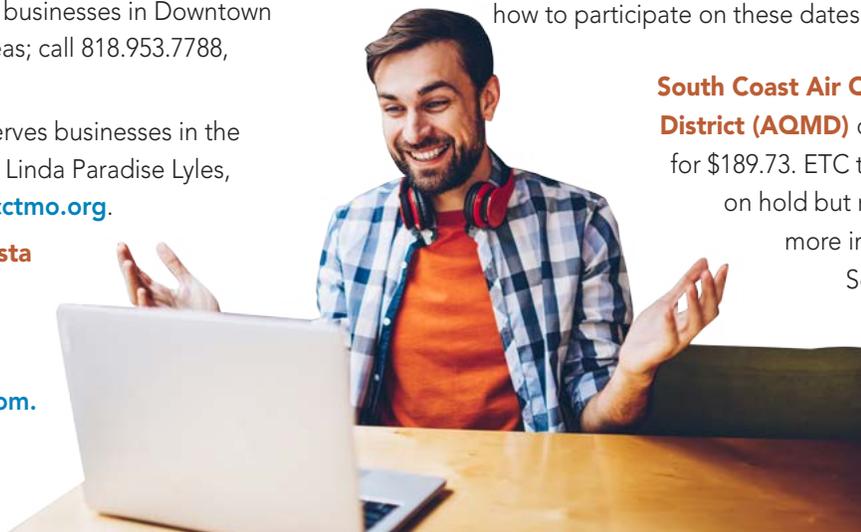
Have you filled out your Census form? The deadline to submit has been extended to Sept. 30. Federal and state governments rely on Census data to decide how to allocate funding for public services and infrastructure, which includes public transportation. You should have received a form in the mail, or you can complete the [online Census form](#). Fill it out and be counted!

Network Opportunities

Burbank TMO serves businesses in Downtown and Media District areas; call 818.953.7788, bronwen@btmo.org.

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

Compass at Playa Vista meets regularly; call Aaron Gaul, 310.929.5946, aaron@playavistacompass.com.



Go Glendale meets regularly; call 818.543.7641.

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, email steve@spectrumotion.com.

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

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

Santa Monica TMO meets regularly; contact Puja Thomas-Patel, 424.330.4298.

Torrance Transportation Network meets regularly; call Kim Fuentes at 310.784.7902.

Training

Metro Rideshare/Shared Mobility 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 sign up, send an email to SharedMobility@metro.net; you will be sent a link with a password to log into the meeting. If you can't make that meeting, email Metro to set up a one-on-one virtual meeting. Upcoming ETC Briefings are Sept. 16 and Oct. 14, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; contact Metro for information on how to participate on these dates.



South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) offers one-day ETC training for \$189.73. ETC training sessions are currently on hold but may be offered online. For more information, contact the South Coast AQMD's training program at etctraining@aqmd.gov or visit aqmd.gov.

On the Go

Rideshare News for Southern California Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETCs)

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Art Director: Harlan West

For subscription information or to change your ON THE GO e-mail address, contact your representative at the rideshare office nearest you.

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: <http://www.rctc.org/the-point/>

Metro Regional Rideshare/ Shared Mobility

One Gateway Plaza
MS 99-19-06

Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952
Business: 213.922.2811

SharedMobility@metro.net
<http://thesource.metro.net/>

Twitter: [@MetroLosAngeles](#)

Facebook: [LosAngelesMetro](#)

Ventura County Transportation Commission Commuter Services

950 County Square Dr., Ste. 207
Ventura, CA 93003

Business: 951.352.8006

goventura.org/rideshare

Twitter: [@GoVCTC](#)

Facebook: [GoVCTC](#)

Instagram: [@goVCTC](#)

OCTA Share the Ride Programs

550 S. Main St., Orange, CA 92868

Mailing address:

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Business: 714.636.RIDE option 4

Twitter: [@GoOCTA](#)

Facebook: [OCTASharetheRide](#)

Commuter Information 511

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