

ON THE GO

News for
Southern California
Commuters

Is Your Hybrid Commute Costing Too Much?



If you work at home some days, saving money on the commute is one of the benefits. Yet you might be paying too much on the days you *do* head into the office.

Here, we offer a few money-saving tips for hybrid workers:

Compare pricing on transit passes. For daily commutes, a monthly transit pass makes financial sense. If you're only coming in a couple days a week, take a look at other fare options. Would a 1-Day, 5-Day or weekly pass be more affordable overall? Or paying per trip?

Rideshare when you can, even if it's not every time you commute. Especially when gas prices are high, any day you can carpool vs. driving

alone saves you money. Even if you don't have a carpool partner who works the exact same days you do, can you make it work *some* days?

Look for transit deals. Many transit providers are offering discounts. This summer, for example, you can get a Metrolink 1-Day pass for just \$15 on weekdays that allows travel all day long (so would cover a round-trip commute). That may be cheaper than your usual per-trip rate.

Reduce parking costs. If your employer doesn't pay for parking, are you still buying a monthly parking pass?

Paying even a higher per-day rate for parking (if that's available) may be cheaper overall—especially if you can further reduce the number of days you drive in by carpooling or riding transit occasionally.

Consider splitting a vanpool seat. A vanpool is a group of people who commute together on a regular basis, splitting costs. If you don't commute often enough to be part of a vanpool, see if you can find a fellow rider who can ride on the days you don't (and cover a portion of your monthly fare).



To find your best rideshare options—including getting a list of potential carpool partners and vanpools—visit ridematch.info, IECommuter.org or call 511.

Metro to Bring Ambassadors on Board

In an effort to create a safer environment for riders, Metro will soon launch its new Transit Ambassador Program.

Ambassadors are staff who will ride Metro buses and trains, greeting passengers at stations and helping riders with trip planning, fare payments and more.

They'll also work with crisis intervention teams to help connect riders who are unhoused or experiencing mental health crisis with social services.

The program is expected to get underway later this summer or in fall 2022.

Find out more at thesource.metro.net.

Try OC Flex for Free

OC Flex shared vans offer on-demand service within certain zones in Orange County. Unlimited local rides all day are \$4.50 when paid via the mobile app (get it here for **Android** or **iPhone**) or \$5 cash onboard.

To get a free round trip (until Aug. 31), enter code RIDEFREE on the app. The offer is good for group rides of up to five people.

OC Flex vans cover portions of Laguna Nigel, Aliso Viejo and Mission Viejo.

For zone maps and more information, visit octa.net/ocflex.



On the Go for Commuters is a service of your county transportation agencies.