

Get to work faster, cheaper and with less stress

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Carpool Lane Violation Fines Go Up

People driving alone unlawfully in the carpool lane may be in for a costly surprise—a \$341 minimum ticket. That's up from the previous minimum of \$271, according to Dawn Helou with Caltrans. Of course, not all solo drivers are breaking the rules: in addition to motorcycles and low-emission vehicles, hybrids with proper identifying stickers from the DMV may use carpool lanes regardless of occupancy. Originally, the DMV was authorized to distribute 75,000 stickers to qualified hybrid drivers. That's since been increased to 85,000—and the original sunset date of 2008 has been pushed out to 2013.



New Transit Guides

Metro "12 Minute" Map

In a hurry? Metro's new "12-Minute" Map is the latest tool to help riders get where they want to go more easily. It shows, at a glance, bus lines that run every 12 minutes or less. No timetables are necessary—users can simply plot their trip and go to a bus stop anytime during the day, knowing their bus will arrive shortly. The "12-Minute" Map is available at Metro customer centers and on the web at metro.net

Overweight Drivers Use a Billion More Gallons of Gas

Americans' ever-expanding waistlines are translating to nearly an additional one billion gallons of gas burned a year, a recent study showed. The average American in 2002 carried 24 more pounds than in the 1960s. According to the University of Illinois, added weight in a vehicle decreases gas mileage—and the cumulative effect of all those pounds adds up to 938 million gallons of gas annually. If you're not quite ready to go on a diet to cut your commute costs, adding extra weight in the form of a carpool partner and splitting expenses is a great way to use less fuel overall...without having to cut calories.



OCTA Destinations and Discounts Guide

Discover fun things to do in Orange County and how to get there by bus or rail with the *Destinations and Discounts Guide*, available free on-line from Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA). You can search by area as well as type of service, including dining, entertainment, historical, shopping, libraries, colleges, farmers markets, nature, science, sports and recreation. You'll also find special OCTA partners that offer discounts to pass holders. For details or to download the guide, go to octa.net

