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February 2010

## "When Is My Bus Coming?"

If you've ever stood at a bus stop wondering when the next bus is going to arrive, here's good news: The answer may be as close as your cell phone or PDA. Many bus companies are now using new technologies to deliver information to riders as they wait for their rides.

In Orange County, a service called **Text4Next** lets riders text OCTAGO (628246) and key in their bus stop and route number to instantly get the next three times the bus is scheduled. Details are at [octa.net](http://octa.net).

A similar service is also available for many buses in Southern California via **NextBus.com**, which uses satellite technology to let riders know when the next bus will arrive (via wireless devices or on public digital displays). Bus providers that use NextBus include Camarillo Area Transit, Glendale Beeline, Gold Coast Transit, Moorpark Transit, Simi Valley Transit, Thousand Oaks Transit and VISTA buses.

For information on bus routes and schedules for your commute, go to **CommuteSmart.info**.



## To Be Safe on the Road, Hang Up and Drive, Study Shows



The use of cell phones or texting by drivers is behind 28% of all U.S. traffic crashes, according to a recent study by the National Safety Council. This adds up to 1.6 million crashes a year. While the NSC, a non-profit group, called for better law enforcement of motorists' cell phone restrictions, there's another solution as well: Make sure if you're texting or making a call while on the road, someone else is driving—whether in a carpool, vanpool or bus.

## In Brief

### Metrolink Fare Update

And in the category of "good news/bad news"... the good news is that Metrolink will not raise fares (as was recently proposed to meet a budget shortfall). The bad news: that means service reductions will have to pick up the slack. By mid-February, Metrolink will reduce the number of trains, limit weekend service or eliminate service altogether on a number of lines, including suspending two weekday trains on the Inland Empire-Orange County lines. The full list is at [metrolinktrains.com](http://metrolinktrains.com)



### OCTA Service Reductions

Due to the loss of state funding and declining sales tax revenue, OCTA bus service will be reduced starting March 14. For current information about affected routes/schedules, visit [octa.net/marchchange](http://octa.net/marchchange)

### New Transit Center

In the Perris area? A transit center just opened in downtown Perris that features a Park & Ride lot, numerous bus bays...plus plans within a few years to house a Metrolink rail stop. For details, visit the Riverside County Transportation Commission at [rctc.org](http://rctc.org)

