

Rideshare Testimonials

Carpoolers



"I have carpoled with at least three people from Fontana consistently for about five years now. We meet on a daily basis at some ones house and drive to work together. As our schedules change daily due to our workload, we notify each other on a daily basis of the [current] schedule. Occasionally we have additional people join our carpool group. It takes time off our daily commute time."
--- Sheryl Gulla-Miller, Probation (2015 – updated 2017)

"My wife and I are fortunate to work in the same office. Carpooling saves us at least 45 minutes on the drive home on the 405 Freeway, and saves us on the cost of gas for our other vehicle."
--- Jeffery Warren, HCA (2016)

"The two ladies I rideshare with are great. We live about three miles from our meeting place so it is super convenient. We take turns driving for a week at a time and we talk, play on our tablets, read or just close our eyes for a little bit longer. I would not trade my ridesharing for anything."
--- Martha Tamayo, Superior Court (2015)

"I love being in a carpool. You never have to be alone and you save lots of money. Plus, my carpool partners are the greatest!" --- Joshua Hensley, OCSD (2015)

"We all make up excuses to justify not ridesharing. Who wants to give up their freedom? It's worth it, I promise! It's been over a year now and not only have I made a good friend, but we also find ways to excuse away the things that may prevent us from carpooling. Start sharing the ride, you'll thank me!" --- Melinda Brawner, OCSD (2015)

"My wife and I carpool even though she works in the private sector, and so many great things have come from it. We are able to plan things in the mornings such as dinners, errands that need to be run after work, chores and so much more. On the way home, we talk about our day, vent and support each other in our personal and work lives. When we get home, we don't talk about work because we have already set time aside for that. It's easier to leave work at work."
--- Brandon Pearce, SSA (2015)

"Carpooling with a co-worker not only saves gas but my commute is quicker, it is more pleasant to share the ride, and most importantly helps the environment. I highly recommend carpooling."
--- Sakina Shah, HCA (2015)

"My co-worker and I have carpoled for 5-1/2 years. I only have to drive two weeks out of the month, and we can use the carpool lane in heavy traffic." --- Thuy Gutierrez, OCPW (2015)

Bus Riders



"There may be some stigma to the idea of riding the bus. I must admit, it did take me a couple of weeks to feel completely at ease. And that's only because I didn't know the other optional places to park outside of the OCTA parking lot. Once the other County employees in the bus enlightened me, it's been a breeze. I have met some really wonderful people that also work in surrounding buildings to mine. The peace of mind knowing that the bus is punctual, that I don't have to drive (fight with traffic) and the savings is great! You will immediately see savings on your gas, the wear and tear of your car and when you call your insurance company to adjust the weekly mileage, you'll be surprised at those savings as well."
--- Beatriz Williams, Superior Court (2016, restated 2017)

"My previous manager suggested that I try the bus seven or eight years ago. I was hesitant at first; I didn't know who else would be riding with me, and I did not want to feel vulnerable. However, I have been riding ever since. I have made friends with my bus buddies, I can read or knit or write letters and I don't have to worry about traffic. I can relax and unwind from work instead of dealing with bad drivers and traffic. I am lucky; I live only three or four blocks from

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my bus stop so I walk home. My morning bus stop is actually closer than the parking structure I use on days that I drive, plus I don't have to cross the street to get there. Taking the bus is only five minutes longer than driving and it is a lot cheaper (driving costs \$7 a day). I ride the bus because it is more relaxing, cheaper and I have fun with my bus buddies. Maybe you should try it too." --- *Cynthia Schafer, HCA (2016)*

"For the last few years I have taken the bus from the Laguna Hills Transportation Center to work at OC Superior Court. My eyes light up each time I see the Route 83 bus because I know I CAN go to work and CAN get home. The best part of being in the Rideshare Program is the friendships I have developed with my fellow bus riders. The chatter and laughter on the bus is part of my life. I would definitely miss this part if I were to start driving to work." -- *Giselle Ongkeko (2015)*

"I have met many bus drivers who are friendly, kind and willing to give advice about routes to take, or will wait for a brief period for a "regular" who is running late. I have also met numerous nice bus riders who I frequently run into in my neighborhood and have even friended on social media, and I feel it is like a community. It may not be as convenient as having your car handy for every whim, but it is less costly and you can relax and not have to deal with traffic."
--- *Jeff Kanarek, SSA (2015)*

Train Riders



"Ever thought of riding the train to work? It's been a great decision for me to ride Metrolink to work which I've done since March of 2015. If the stations are convenient for you, you ought to try it.....Riding the train has improved my life! I feel great every day because I don't have to drive the 32 miles back and forth to work. I start each day feeling relaxed, alert and happy."
--- *Stephanie Brown, OCCR/OC Public Libraries (2017)*

NEW

"Simply put, taking the train has saved both my health and the life of my car! I was commuting 90-plus miles each day, on the 91 & 55 Freeways, and it was absolutely wearing me out." --- *Lynn Miles, OCHCA (2017)*

NEW

"I started taking the Metrolink from Riverside-La Sierra in 2000. I was initially skeptical that it would work out since I sometimes come in to work early or leave later, but I've found Metrolink's schedule to work out well. Taking the train makes the commute much easier as I can catch up on the news on the Internet or nap, or find time to work on my embroidery projects. The train also reduces some stress as I'm not fighting traffic or worrying about being involved in an accident on the freeway". --- *Linda Rachell, County Counsel (2016)*

"The train has been a great choice for me. Even though it is a short distance from Mission Viejo to Santa Ana, my stress level is greatly reduced from the freeway traffic, and I have saved a bundle on the wear and tear on my car". --- *Heidi Germain, Superior Court (2016)*

"With the painful drive out of Los Angeles due to the construction, Amtrak/Metrolink is by far the best choice I've made. Not only do I sleep on the way to work and home, but I also save so much on gas and in a sense, contribute to taking one car off the freeway which I hope makes a difference in the congestion!" ---- *Nestor Espinoza Bojorquez, SSA (2015)*

"I love taking the train. It gives me so much more energy and time than driving into work. I can rest, read, talk to my many friends I have made during my commute. I always tell people about the train, and I am willing to help new train riders find their way." --- *Melody Santamaria, Probation (2015)*

"I have been riding the Metrolink since I moved to Riverside County from Santa Ana about two years ago. Let me tell you that I do not miss driving on the 91 Freeway. I love riding the train -- the fact that I can read, talk to friends that ride the train with me, knit or even take a nap is wonderful. I like driving but not when I'm going to work. I get to relax on the train and I get to

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take my bicycle sometimes, too! Pretty soon I will not have to drive all the way to the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station to hop on the train—I will only have to drive about five minutes to the new Downtown Perris Metrolink Station!" --- *Myrna Gomez, SSA (2015)*

"I have been commuting from Riverside County to Santa Ana since October 2011. I'm up early in the morning, but it's worth the time I save by riding a bus to get to the Corona Metrolink Station and then ride the train to the Santa Ana Station. Over the years, I have gotten to know a lot of fellow County employees who have done the commuting for a much longer time than I have. I recommend this highly to anyone who commutes to Orange County. You get to relax on your way to and from work without the stress of worrying about traffic delays." *M. Makooi, (2015)*

"Using public transportation allows me to relax and enjoy the outdoor scenery or just read the newspaper. I do not have the stress of being in traffic and watching out for bad and reckless drivers." --- *Georgina Brewer, District Attorney (2015)*

"Taking the train to work and back home is the most relaxing experience possible. No freeways and no traffic!" --- *Robert Gomez, Assessor (2015)*

"My story started in 1996 when I took Metrolink for the first time. It's been a great ride!" --- *Michael Farole, SSA (2015)*

"Simple...all I have to do is look over at the 91 Freeway and know that I've made the right decision to invest in a Metrolink monthly pass." (2015) "My rideshare experience is to remain "positive" about riding the train and bus even when they are late, when one is canceled or when one is over-crowded. It is still better than sitting on the 91 Freeway through hot days, wet and slippery roads, or gridlock. Thank you Metrolink and OCTA - you make my day!!" --- *Karen Leland, HCA (2017)*

"I love taking the Metrolink. It is less stressful and the 91 Freeway is truly a nightmare. I am so glad to ride on Metrolink." --- *Maria Lopez, HCA (2015)*

"For 10 years I was a 'road warrior' making a 50-mile daily commute. Last fall I switched to the train and the change is remarkable. I recommend public transit." --- *Lorna Winterrowd, Probation (2015)*

"It is relaxing and fun to ride the train. I can read, close my eyes while listening to music or take a snooze!" --- *Georgina Brewer, District Attorney (2015)*

"I've been taking the Metrolink and carpooling for some time. By ridesharing, I am able to save money, and I get home earlier to spend more time with my family." --- *Frankie Gonzales, OCCR (2015)*

Walking



"Walking to work helps me maintain a healthy body and mind. I feel good knowing that I do my part to help relieve traffic congestion and cut down on pollution. This has also helped me reduce my vehicle maintenance costs. Thank you OC Rideshare Program." --- *Steven Ciocan, OCERS (2014)*

Vanpooling



"We formed our vanpool after meeting on the 757 bus. There are five of us [in the vanpool group] which started on May 31 coming from Montclair every morning." --- *Debra Nweke, Clerk Recorder (2016)*