

C O U N T Y COMMUTER C O N N E C T I O N

Premier
Issue

November 16, 1990

Commuter Service Center Delivers the Goods!



Valerie Hill, CSC manager, accesses computer for rideshare matches.

"You mean you can get me a personalized rideshare match list in 24 hours?"

"Guaranteed," says Valerie Hill, Commuter Service Center Manager, "and that's not all!" Opened on October 1, the County Commuter Service Center (CSC) provided over 600 County employees with "exclusive matches" during the first month.

"The process is simple," says Hill, "the employee just fills out a form, we input it and then each person gets a list

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County Commuter Network Created

Fresh from three full days of training by the Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), nine



Kim Boatman, Countywide Transportation Coordinator

enthusiastic County employees have been officially certified as "Trip Reduction Sub-plan Regional Coordinators". Their job is to help County departments meet the average vehicle ridership (AVR) goals necessary to improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion. They have become the County's Commuter Network.

Kim Boatman is the Countywide Transportation

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Supervisor Michael Antonovich at CSC grand opening

Commuter Program Attracts Wide Ranging Support

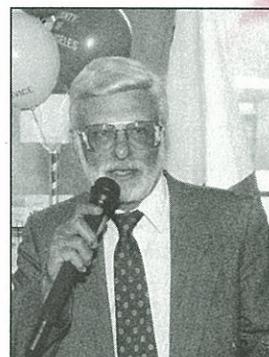
Blue sky. Clean air. Quicker commutes.

Is it a dream or the vision of hundreds of County employees and residents, labor officials and County administrators who are actively supporting L.A. County's Commuter Program?

At the grand opening of the County Commuter Service Center October 4, Supervisor Michael Antonovich pointed to the "positive, innovative, voluntary programs now available as commuting choices for County employees."

Joseph Wetzler, Chairman, Coalition of County Unions, explained labor's point of view. "We are local," said Wetzler. "We not only represent the membership, but we have to be concerned about the communities in which we live...It's inevitable that something has to be done about traffic," he added. Wetzler is Vice-Chairman of the Labor-Management Advisory Committee which helped to develop the Trip Reduction Program and promoted its approval by the County Board of Supervisors.

Blue sky. Clean air. Quicker commutes. It's a vision both labor and management agree on.



Joseph Wetzler, Vice-Chair, Labor-Management Advisory Committee

Civic Center Parking Plan: A Successful Start

"The County's Civic Center Parking Plan implemented October 1, 1990 has been an overwhelming success," noted Richard Dixon, Chief Administrative Officer. "It's been a tough

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"80% of the brown haze we see as smog in Southern California is generated by automobile emissions."

- CTS, Inc.



Are You In The Driver's Seat?

Employees throughout the County have begun to try new ways to get to work. Why? Because they want to rid our communities of air pollution and reduce the time we spend on the road getting to and from work.

In the last 20 years traffic volume has grown five times as quickly as freeway capacity and twice as quickly as our population. According to the Southern California Association of Governments, by the year 2010 our population is expected to grow almost 50%. That translates into 5.5 million more people creating a 42% increase in traffic.

Imagine. Today's average road speed is 31 m.p.h. If we do nothing to change our commuting habits; in 20 years that speed will slow to 11 m.p.h. Plus, the added congestion will cost each of us as much as \$950 annually. No wonder we hear so much about SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District) Regulation XV.

What is Regulation XV? Well, to reduce emissions from vehicle sources in the South Coast Air Basin, all employers with 100 or more employees at a work site must work to reduce air pollution by decreasing the number of employee commute trips between 6 to 10 a.m. During these four critical hours, cars on the road emit the majority of pollutants that react with sunlight and lead to high ozone concentration later in the day.

What does a high ozone level mean? For children, athletes, outdoor workers and seniors, it means trouble. Lung airways can get inflamed and swollen, making breathing difficult. Lungs may be permanently scarred.

So what can you do? For one thing, you can help others get information on transportation alternatives by starting a commuter information bulletin board in your office. You can try carpooling for just one day a week, or if you already do, try getting one more person in your car.

Think about it. Then contact your departmental rideshare coordinator immediately. Remember, You're in the driver's seat!

Evelyn Gutierrez, Director County Commuter Program



Evelyn Gutierrez

County Commuter Network Created

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Coordinator, overseeing the transportation activities for the County's 130 sites. Boatman, as the Civic Center sub-plan coordinator, is also responsible for providing information on ridesharing alternatives to Civic Center employees.

"People (at SCAQMD, RTD and Commuter Transportation Services) just die when I ask for quantities of thousands," says Boatman. "Usually I have to make several trips to gather enough bus schedules and pamphlets for all County sites."

The nine sub-regions, part of the County's Trip Reduction Plan include the Civic Center, Hospitals, 24-hour Facilities (excluding hospitals), Sheriff Sub-stations, Coastal Region, Metropolitan Region, San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel/Pomona and High Desert Region.



Jane Clausen, 24-hour Sub-Plan Coordinator



Jerry Louis Shultz, Sheriff's Station Subplan Coordinator

AVR goals range from 1.75 in the Civic Center to 1.3 in the High Desert Region. However, most sub-plan regions have a 1.5 AVR goal.

"Of course there is no such thing as a '.5 person'," notes Boatman. "That statistic translates into one out of two cars having a passenger in it," she explains.

Working together to conduct ridesharing surveys and to coordinate promotional activities and informational/referral services, the sub-plan coordinators are enthusiastic about applying creativity as well as nuts and bolts assistance to help every County department reach its AVR goals.

Meet the Commuter Network

"If you can't rideshare to work, you can at least go to your meetings together, even that helps," says Jane Clausen, Probation Department. A County employee since 1969, Jane, an avid aerobics enthusiast, manages to juggle her health club workout with her carpool schedule.

Jerry Shultz and his wife, also a County employee, share a relaxing commute to work on the Long Beach Blue Line. Since Sheriff deputies "have to travel with guns, helmets and gear," Jerry expects his region will emphasize the compressed work week option. Jerry also serves as a Boy Scout leader, neighborhood association president and school board member.

"I'd like to try educating people. Then



Christine A. Wilson, Coast Sub-Plan Coordinator

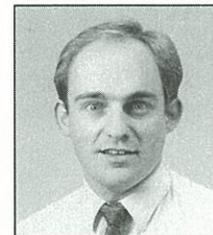


Don Decker, Metro Sub-Plan Coordinator

they may try and pitch in because it's the right thing to do," says Christine Wilson, Administrative Services Manager, Department of Beaches and Harbors. Christine's 9/80 work schedule helps reduce congestion and gives her time for "outdoors stuff" like hiking, water skiing and participating in triathalons during extended weekends.

Don Decker, Consultant, Department of Public Works wants to help County employees have a less stressful ride, reduce traffic congestion and pollution. "Every little bit does help," he says. "If everybody does their share, we reduce smog." Don has "commuted" to every continent except Africa and Australia and enjoys "clean air hobbies" like swimming, photography and gardening.

"There is always resistance when you want people to try something they're not used to," admits Kip Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Municipal Court who also



Kip Anderson, San Fernando Valley Sub-Plan Coordinator



Anne Marie Patrick, San Gabriel/Pomona Valley Sub-Plan Coordinator

is studying for a judicial administration degree. Enthusiastic about promoting ridesharing to 1800 County employees, Kip explains, "I really like this line of work."

The proud resident of Alhambra, **Anne Patrick**, Personnel Technician, Superior Court, has been carpooling to work for six months. "I think it's great!" she says. "For the one week I don't drive I'm not stressed by the time I get to the office. I can sit back and relax." Anne urges anyone wanting transportation information in her region to give her a call.

Lymeal McClain, Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator, DPSS, knows that commuting needs in the high desert are different. "Since (employees) are coming from various parts of the County like Glendale and Burbank, they need to find Park 'N Ride lots," he explains. A former junior college English teacher, Lymeal enjoys sports, especially during the championships.

"I want everyone to have current information for their ridesharing choices," explains **Madeline Castro**, Administrative Assistant, Department of Health Services, to "let them choose the best one for themselves." Anticipating the County's own vanpool program may prompt the most interest at seven hospital sites, Madeline personally became a mass transit rider in October.

"We want to improve the



Lymeal McClain, High Desert Sub-Plan Coordinator



Madeline D. Castro, Hospital Sub-Plan Coordinator

environmental impact that commuting has on the quality of air we breathe and the future of the region. We all want to make L.A. County a better place to work and live.," says Boatman. Formerly, Kim was Transportation Coordinator and monthly newsletter editor for the corporate office of Builder's Emporium. A resident of Pasadena, Kim catches the RTD 401/402 line to downtown whenever she can.

For county-wide Commuter Program information or referral to you sub-plan coordinator, please call Kim at (213) 974-1771.

"When 12 people ride in a vanpool, they eliminate 275 pounds of pollution every day!"
-CTS, Inc.

Civic Center Parking Plan
(Continued from page 1)

program to implement, but the rewards to our employees have been great!"

In October the number of Civic Center employee parking permits dropped from 7500 to 5500, nearly a 27% decrease. "It shows that the incentive program works," said Margery Gould, CAO Management Analyst and coordinator of the civic center parking program.

Joe Wetzler, Vice-Chair of the Labor-Management Advisory Committee emphatically agreed, "If you ride share, this plan puts money in your pocket and that's always good for our employees."

Parking Plan Safety Feature

Civic Center employees who work late and leave between 6:30 p.m. and midnight now enjoy an added service. They may call the safety police to request shuttle service to their cars. "The safety police will pick them up and make sure they get safely to their cars," Gould said. The number to call is 974-9555.

County Employee A "RideshareWeek" Winner!

Sandra Gonzales, a Legal Office Support Assistant in the County Counsel Office, is busily planning a weekend trip to San Diego, courtesy of CTS, Inc. and the "Keep California Moving" Rideshare week contest.

One of 75,000 Southern California commuters who signed rideshare pledge

Commuter Service Center Delivers the Goods
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with names and work phone numbers. It's confidential - no home phone numbers or addresses are provided." The CSC is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Located at the Hall of Administration (500 W. Temple Street) in the second floor lobby, the CSC is a cornucopia of transportation alternatives including information on buses, the Blue Line, vanpools, shuttle service, guaranteed ride home program, telecommuting and staggered work hour options, bus pass referrals and a wide range of brochures about environmental and air quality issues.

New Service in December

For people who prefer to take the bus rather than carpool, the CSC will offer a new computerized service starting in December in cooperation with RTD and Commuter Transportation Services. Given the start point (home), the end point (work site) and the employees work hours, the computer will generate specific bus routes and schedules the employee may use to get to work on time.

"People seem to be excited about the availability of information the center provides," notes Hill. "It's a great incentive."

cards in September, Gonzales regularly drives 20 minutes to the Park and Ride Lot in West Covina from her home in Ontario and then takes the Foothill Transit Bus 498 to the Civic Center.

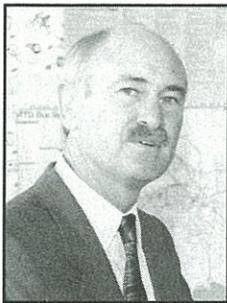
"You meet really nice people on the bus," says Gonzales, adding "winning this trip to San Diego is a great bonus!"

BUS LINES BECKON: YOU'RE ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY

Interested in trying public transportation? Here's a few transit operators who service outlying areas and downtown Los Angeles:

Los Angeles - Commuter Express	(800) 832-3434	express buses from SF Valley, South Bay, Westside
Orange County Transit District	(714) 636 - 7433	two express lines from Fullerton Park/Ride and Huntington Beach to downtown LA
Southern California Rapid Transit District (SCRTD)	(213) 626 - 4455 from L.A. phones	public bus/express

"Q&A" With President Jim Sims, CTS, Inc.



*Jim Sims, President,
Commuter Transportation
Services, Inc.*

Q: I want to organize a carpool so I can benefit from commuter lanes. What should I do?

A: Civic Center employees can call Valerie Hill at:

Commuter Service Center
213-893-1290

L.A. County
213-380-RIDE

Ventura County
805-656-RIDE

Riverside and San Bernardino
Counties
714-825-RIDE

Orange County
714-636-RIDE

Q: What are your long-range plans?

A: Our long-range goal is to have half the people in the South Coast Basin ridesharing at least one day a week. We want to make carpooling, vanpooling and telecommuting a fact of life in the basin, and make driving alone the exception rather than the rule.

**"Eight of the
nine busiest
freeway inter-
changes in the
U.S. are in
Southern Cali-
fornia. The
state's busiest
interchange is
Route 10/405
serving an
average of
513,000 vehicles
daily."**

-CTS, Inc.

County of Los Angeles **County Commuter Connection**

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Labor-Management Plan for A Guaranteed Ride Home

"What happens if I join a carpool and I have to work late? How will I get home?"

"If my vanpool driver has to leave suddenly because of a family emergency, what options do I have?"

When employees are seriously considering changing their commuter patterns, answers to questions like these can make all the difference. Knowing this, the Board of Supervisors approved the County Labor-Management Advisory Committee's recommendation to provide a guaranteed ride home for employees who rideshare to work.

While current practice includes co-worker assistance and the use of County vehicles whenever possible, the Committee is now working on program details which will expand program services to taxi service and short-term auto rental.

Don Deise, Committee Chairman states, "This program is an excellent example of teamwork. Both County management and members of the Coalition of County Unions have been working diligently to put a program together that is convenient and provides effective service to employees."

"Mini Centers": You Can Do It, Too!

Feeling entrepreneurial?

Want to help your fellow county employees find alternative transportation possibilities?

Consider opening a mini commuter service center!

To help kick-off the extensive educational campaign on commuter options in the downtown civic center, five "mini commuter information centers" were installed as a pilot program in five separate buildings, the County Courthouse, Criminal Courts Building, Hall of Justice, Hall of Records and Health Services.

"We have been able to staff the mini centers half-time during peak hours, as well as keep a steady supply of materials at each site for employees to pick up and use," says Kim Boatman, Countywide Transportation Coordinator. Each center also features a large wall-map with bus routes so commuters can check out alternatives.

We Want More Mini's!

"The County has 130 work sites with more than 100 employees working at each one," explained Boatman. "We really could use 'mini's' in all of them—we just need volunteers," she added. Interested? You may be only a phone call away from being your building's transportation marketer. Call Kim Boatman at (213) 974-1771.