

Commuter Connection

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Supervisor Edelman gets update on Vanpool Program from Bill Acker, vanpool driver.

Labor-Management Agree Ridesharing Makes "Cents"

Working to save employees money and reduce traffic congestion, four Worksite Labor-Management Transportation Committees have taken steps to cut employee commute costs and trips into metropolitan Los Angeles.

The Sixth and Vermont team headed by Kathie Hornbeck, Department of Children's Services, and Dan Savage, Local 660 representative, have identified a full range of rideshare choices: the establishment of "Bus

(Continued on page 2)

County's Rideshare Fair A Hit

Over a thousand County employees strolled through the Civic Center Mall during their lunch hour September 27 to enjoy the County's Rideshare Fair and learn about commuting options. Supporting Board Chairman Deane Dana's motion declaring September 14-18 "Rideshare Week" in Los Angeles County, Supervisor Ed Edelman "congratulated County employees for their rideshare efforts."

As the band, "Peto and Concert," provided live entertainment, Supervisor Edelman joined County employees in visiting the various rideshare information booths. He took time to thank the County's Transportation Coordinators for "their hard work in promoting the use of public transit, ridesharing, vanpooling and telecommuting."

Southern California Commuters Break 100,000 Pledge Mark

Joining Supervisor Edelman, Jan Baird, Marketing Vice President, Commuter Transportation Services (CTS), stated,

"Rideshare Week gives each of us a chance to personally experience the benefits of ridesharing." She added, "We know that about a third of those pledging to rideshare today will be doing it for the first time, and half of these new ridesharers will continue to rideshare for weeks and even years to come."

According to CTS, for the second consecutive year, more than 100,000 Southern Californians pledged to avoid driving alone on Thursday, September 17, "Keep California Moving Day," the highlight of the seventh annual California Rideshare Week. This year's campaign attracted the participation of more than 1,300 employers and yielded nearly 134,000 pledges from commuters in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties.

The goals of Rideshare Week are to educate commuters about alternatives to driving alone and to persuade them to kick the drive-alone habit -- a major contributor to the County's serious gridlock problems.



Richard Graf, Superior Court van driver, "Vanpooling is great for people that use freeways; it helps reduce stress and traffic."



(L to R) Lyméal McClain, DPSS; Robert Burns, Children's Services; Cecil Green, ISD; Martina Ford and Mark Lazarus, Parks and Recreation; Jim Peterson, ISD; Sherome Muldrew, Community and Senior Citizens; Cecilia Polaski, Mental Health; Valerie Boyd, CAO; Kathie Hornbeck, Children's Services; Dan Savage, Local 660; and Bruce Cowen, Children's Services; tackle gridlock at the Sixth and Vermont complex.

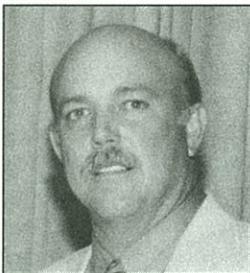
Ridesharing Makes "Cents"

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Buddies" as a system that would identify persons who ride the bus during similar hours, setting up new vanpools, promoting expanded rideshare matching and expanding guaranteed ride home services will all help cut employee costs.

Other Committee Co-chairs: Kimberley Kyle, Local 660, and Marty Honigs, LAC+USC Medical Center; Mary Werk, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center; and Hilda Simmons, Treasurer/Tax Collector, Adams and Grand Complex; all agree ridesharing makes "cents."

Cost savings for a ridesharing employee can be as great as \$3,351 annually. These savings represent lower insurance rates, lower vehicle maintenance costs, vanpool tax credits, lower gasoline costs and parking costs. If ridesharing makes "cents" to you, contact your Departmental Transportation Coordinator for additional information.



Don Truelsen, Public Works ETC, always talks to people about how they can help by carpooling.



Probation ETC Georgia Roberson believes education is the best way to encourage her facility's employees to rideshare.

County Employees Achieve Air Quality Goals

County employees have joined the fight against air pollution and won! Six County Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETC) have met their air quality goals by reducing vehicles arriving at the worksite by over 30 percent. Thanks to their outstanding efforts, more County employees are ridesharing than ever before.

Don Truelsen, Public Works ETC, achieved his goal with a salesman approach. "I'm always selling ridesharing," says Don. "I'm always talking to people about air quality and how they can help by carpooling." Don, who is responsible for the rideshare activities of 1,400 Public Works employees, also uses an in-house ridematching program to set people up in carpools.

"I talked to three of our managers and got them to carpool together," says Georgia Roberson, Probation ETC. Georgia believes marketing and education is the best way to encourage her facility's 288 employees to rideshare. "I post newspaper articles and flyers next to the job promotions. People can't miss them."

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) is responsible for the clean air achievements of four worksites. At the DPSS El Sereno facility, Anna Marie Castro, worksite ETC, encourages compressed workweek schedules to meet air quality goals. "I work internally with employees to adjust schedules and maintain a high level of service to the public," says Anna Marie. Other DPSS ETCs who have surpassed their air quality goals include Tina Trujillo, DPSS Civic Center; Matias G. Wesby, DPSS Finance; and Nancy Diaz, DPSS San Gabriel.



Anna Marie Castro, DPSS worksite ETC at El Sereno facility says she encourages compressed work week schedules to meet air quality goals.

Join these clean air achievers and contact your worksite Employee Transportation Coordinator for rideshare assistance.

Telecommuters Needed for First County-Private Telebusiness Center

The Board of Supervisors, on the motion by Supervisor Mike Antonovich, approved plans for an experimental telebusiness center to be opened by year-end. The telebusiness center will give Antelope Valley commuters the opportunity to work closer to home in Lancaster. The business center is envisioned as a three-year pilot program to be funded by donations from private companies and government grants. Los Angeles County and major private employers, have begun looking for local commuters who would like to use the telebusiness center a few days a week. Nancy Apeles, telecommuting program manager for Los Angeles County, said, "Letters were sent to 350 companies to make them aware of the telebusiness center."

Joe McClure, with the Antelope Valley Local Development Corporation who has been assisting the County in our efforts, said, "We want County departments and L.A. companies who have employees making a daily commute from here and would be willing to allow them to work in the telebusiness center." The center is scheduled to open December 1, 1992, and to encourage participation, employers will not be charged rent during the first year.

The telebusiness center is to be located in

the Lancaster Business Park at Division Street and Avenue K-6. The initial 20 workstations will be equipped with state-of-the-art computer and telecommunication technology. There will also be a video teleconference center, conference room and free parking. An on-site coordinator will be available to assist in maintaining a highly productive working environment.

Employees can use the alternate work location from one to five days a week and have their own desk, phone, computer and access to copiers and fax machines; some will work in cubicles while others will be assigned to private offices. Up to 100 persons can be accommodated.

The center will showcase telecommuting as a means to increase worker productivity, improve air quality and promote business competitiveness. Companies are being made aware that their employees also benefit by having fewer office distractions and reducing their commute time. Additionally, the County and participating companies will receive telecommuting credits applied to vehicle ridership goals.

For further information contact Nancy Apeles at (213) 974-2637 or the Antelope Valley Telebusiness Center Hotline at (213) 974-2634.



Nancy Apeles, telecommuting manager.

Metrolink - A Better Way to L.A.

Supervisor Mike Antonovich, along with hundreds of early commuters, rode the first Metrolink train from Glendale into Union Station on October 26, marking the beginning of Metrolink commuter train service in Los Angeles County. At a press conference held at Union Station, Supervisors Antonovich and Dana both hailed the new train service as an effective alternative to freeway commuting. "This form of rail transportation will mean the most to those people who now face two and three-hour commutes to work. These commuter trains will provide a pleasurable, reliable alternative to freeway gridlock," said Supervisor Antonovich.

The new commuter rail network fares are distance-based: each fare is determined by the number of zones through which commuters travel. The base-fare is \$2.50, with a \$1 charge for each additional zone traveled. Four ticket types are available: one-way, round-trip, 10-trip and monthly pass. A 50 percent discount on ticket purchases is offered to youth ages 6-18, seniors aged 65 and older and riders with disabilities. Tickets can be purchased at automated vending machines located at all Metrolink Stations.

Supervisor Antonovich, at podium, is joined by Supervisor Dana and Mike Patsaouras, right, member of RTD's Board of Directors, during press conference held at Union Station marking the start of Metrolink commuter train service.



METROLINK TICKET PRICES

Zones Traveled	Basic Fare (1 trip on 10-trip ticket)	Monthly Pass*	10-Trip Ticket	Round Trip	One Way**
One	\$2.50	\$80.00	\$25.00	\$6.00	\$3.50
Two	3.50	112.00	35.00	8.00	4.50
Three	4.50	144.00	45.00	10.00	5.50
Four	5.50	176.00	55.00	12.00	6.50
Five	6.50	208.00	65.00	14.00	7.50
Six	7.50	240.00	75.00	16.00	8.50

* Equals 32 times the basic fare. You get a full month's travel but only pay for 16 days (a 27 percent discount).

** Prices include a \$1.00 surcharge over the basic fare.

All ticket prices include free transfer to connecting transportation to and from Union Station.

Harbor Freeway to Sport New Cellular Call Boxes

Stranded drivers on the Harbor Freeway will soon be able to use the energy of the sun to summon help. As part of a county-wide call-box system upgrade project, the LACTC has initiated the installation of 1,242 solar-powered cellular Metro Call Boxes along highways and freeways in the Antelope Valley, Santa Clarita and San Gabriel Valley areas, as well as the replacement of 12 old call boxes along the Harbor Freeway.

"These new solar powered cellular freeway call boxes will replace the old boxes throughout Los Angeles County. Because of the solar lighted boxes, they will be much safer for motorists to use at night. Today, the Los Angeles County freeway call-box system is a model for the nation," said Supervisor Hahn. The new state-of-the-art, solar-powered cellular network is more reliable, less costly and faster than the



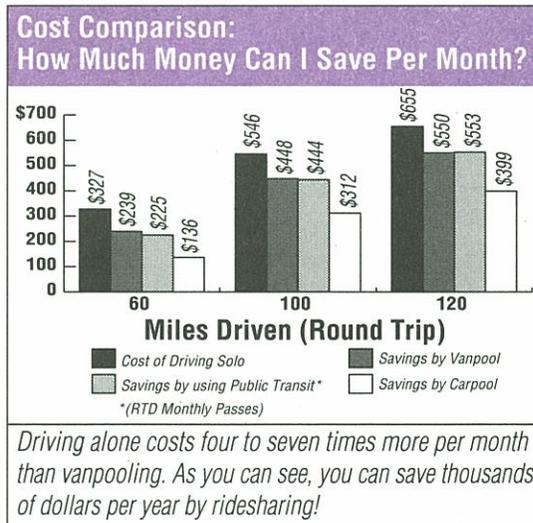
Supervisor Kenneth Hahn tests one of the twelve new solar-powered cellular call boxes on the Harbor Freeway as LACTC member Ray Grabinski, left, and Neil Peterson, right, Executive Director of the LACTC, look on.

hardwire telephone technology that has served motorist during the past 30 years.

When all the solar powered cellular call boxes are installed, there will be a total of 4,000 in Los Angeles County, according to Supervisor Hahn. "I am so proud that to-date these call boxes have been credited with providing assistance to more than 8 million people," Hahn added. So far, 1,500 call boxes have been replaced throughout the system. The project began in October of 1991 and is expected to be completed in Spring 1993.

Ridesharing Benefits- Money You Can Save!

In these hard economic times when every cent counts, you can save a great deal of money by ridesharing, especially if you have a long commute. For example, sharing expenses with the others in a vanpool can save you as much as \$5,376 per year for a round trip commute of 100 miles. To illustrate how much you can save, the chart to the right compares the average monthly cost of driving your car to work alone versus using alternative means of ridesharing.



Susan Chatsworth Wins Weekend Trip



Susan Chatsworth, left, Deputy District Attorney III with the District Attorney's San Fernando Branch Office, is the winner of the recent Rideshare Pledge Drive in which over 25,000 employees participated. Kim Boatman, center, Countywide Transportation Coordinator, joins Susan Telles, right, work-site Employee Transportation Coordinator, in presenting Susan a certificate good for a weekend for two in San Diego. For further information on how to obtain a rideshare matchlist, contact your Employee Transportation Coordinator or call the Civic Center Community Service Center at (213) 893-1290.

Due to state budget cuts, future issues of the Commuter Connection will be discontinued.



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