

# CommuteSmart News

January 2013

GET TO WORK FASTER, CHEAPER AND WITH LESS STRESS

## Did You Spend More Last Year on This?



The final numbers aren't in yet, but it appears that American motorists will have spent more on gasoline last year than ever before —\$483 billion, or \$1.32 billion a day. Part of the reason for the overall big spending, according to the Oil Price Information Service, is that rather than seeing the sort of

huge price jumps that cause motorists to curb their driving, last year's prices across the U.S. were consistently high. In other words, sticker shock wore off as people got used to paying more.

In addition, with regional spikes (such as were seen in California, when prices hit record highs of \$4.67 a gallon in October, and those as a result of Hurricane Sandy) it added up to more money than ever going to gas.

To make 2013 a year when you spend less filling up your tank, go to [go511.com](http://go511.com) or [IE511.org](http://IE511.org), or call 511, to find cost-cutting alternatives, such as carpool matching, vanpools, public transit routes and more.

## Get \$75 to Try Vanpooling

New vanpoolers that travel to or from Ventura County may qualify to get vouchers up to \$75 per month if they join a CalVans vanpool. To find a participating vanpool, go to [CalVans.org](http://CalVans.org) or contact VCTC Commuter Services at 805-642-1591, ext. 119.



## More ExpressLanes to Open

Metro ExpressLanes on the I-10 Freeway are slated to open late January/early February, allowing solo drivers to ride for a toll or carpoolers to ride free with a FasTrak transponder. Find out more at [metroexpresslanes.net](http://metroexpresslanes.net).



## Transit News



### OCTA fares to go up

For the first time since 2009, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) riders will see a slight bump in fares starting in February. The regular \$1.50 fare will go up to \$2, the \$4 day pass will be \$5 and a 30-day pass will go from \$55 to \$69. For more information, go to [octa.net](http://octa.net).

### Now Offering Free Wi-Fi...

Ventura County's VISTA buses now offer free wireless Internet onboard, a "much-requested popular service, which can make your commute not just enjoyable, but highly productive as well," says Ventura County Transportation Commission Director Darren Kettle. Find VISTA Bus schedules at [GoVentura.org](http://GoVentura.org) or call 800-438-1112.



### New Transit Station Opens in Ontario

Omnitrans riders now have access to a new station in Ontario. Located between D Street and Holt Avenue along Euclid, Holt and Sultana Avenues, the new station is served by five routes. For schedule information, go to [omnitrans.org](http://omnitrans.org).