

# CommuteSmart News

October 2012

GET TO WORK FASTER, CHEAPER AND WITH LESS STRESS



## Fewer Americans Are Doing This

Thanks to a struggling economy and skyrocketing gas prices, fewer people are driving alone to work, according to a recent *USA Today* analysis of new Census data. The share of workers commuting solo dropped slightly from 2010 to 2011 while commutes on public transportation rose.

Ridesharing—riding buses, trains, subways or sharing cars or vans — rose

from 2005 to 2011 in more than a third of 342 metropolitan areas.

The analysis went on to note that other factors possibly contributing to the reduced drive-alone rate could be an increase in computer face time—which means a need for fewer trips—and a generation of young people that are putting off getting their drivers' licenses.

## Reporters Take Home Golden Pylons

It's awards season in Southern California—and actors may have the Golden Globes, but it's the best traffic reporters who take home the coveted Golden Pylon. These awards honor those whose on-air reports keep freeways moving by promoting rideshare options such as carpool lanes, vanpools and public transportation.

Now in their 16th year, the Golden Pylon Awards are sponsored by five regional transit agencies: Metro, Orange County Transportation Authority, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Bernardino Associated Governments and Ventura County Transportation Commission.



Winners of the 2012 Golden Pylon Awards: from left, carpooling team of Sioux-z Jessup and Nora Wells report traffic on several radio stations, KFI's Nick Pagliochini, Metro's reigning 'Miss Traffic' Sofia Mach, KABC-7's Kalyna Astrinos, CHP Officer Juan Galvin, and KFWB veteran Rhonda Kramer.

## ExpressLanes to Open on I-110

As of Nov. 10, solo drivers that pay a toll will be able to use an 11-mile stretch of carpool lanes on the 110 Harbor Freeway with the opening of the Metro ExpressLanes.

Carpoolers can access these lanes toll-free. All motorists, however—including carpoolers—will need a FasTrak® account and transponder to travel in the ExpressLanes.

ExpressLanes are a one-year demonstration project that aim to enhance travel options and ease congestion on two of the nation's busiest freeways. (The I-110 ExpressLanes are the first to open, and 14 miles of lanes on I-10 San Bernardino Freeway will open early next year.) Tolls will vary depending on traffic, from 25 cents to \$1.40 per mile. Carpoolers using a switchable transponder that allows them to designate how many people are in the vehicle will not be charged a toll if they meet occupancy requirements.

For details, to obtain a transponder, or for information on benefits you can earn through Metro's Carpool Loyalty Program, visit [metroexpresslanes.net](http://metroexpresslanes.net), or call 511 and say "ExpressLanes."

