

# CommuteSmart News

December 2012

GET TO WORK FASTER, CHEAPER AND WITH LESS STRESS

## Take a Holiday from Traffic



Here's what's happening in transportation this holiday season...

### Free Rides on Bus & Rail

Why fight traffic and pay for gas when you can ride transit for free?

- **OCTA:** Orange County Transportation Authority will offer free bus rides on New Year's Eve from 6 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. Jan. 1.
- **Metro:** You can also ride free on all Metro bus and rail lines the nights of Christmas Eve (9 p.m. Dec. 24 – 2 a.m. Dec. 25) and New Year's Eve (9 p.m. Dec. 31 until 2 a.m. Jan. 1).
- **Omnitrans:** Ride free on your own personal holiday: your birthday. You have until Dec. 28 to sign up for your free Omnitrans birthday bus pass for 2013 – go to [Omnitrans.org](http://Omnitrans.org) and click on the birthday cake icon.

### Metrolink's Holiday Toy Express Coming to a Station Near You

The Holiday Toy Express is on its 41-stop tour through Southern California, entertaining families and collecting toys for needy kids through Dec. 23. Now in its 16th year, the Holiday Toy Express features

50,000 twinkling lights, a live musical performance, and a chance to see Santa—plus you can learn a dance ahead of time to join in the fun or download a page to color and give to Santa to hang in his workshop. Visit [Metrolinktrains.com](http://Metrolinktrains.com) for details or call 1.800.371.LINK.



## In Brief

### Metro ExpressLanes Now Open

ExpressLanes on the 110 Freeway opened last month, allowing solo drivers access to carpool lanes for a fee (and carpoolers continued free access, providing they have a transponder and meet passenger requirements). Tolls vary from 25-cents to \$1.40 a mile on the 11-mile stretch from Adams Boulevard just south of downtown to the Harbor Gateway Transit Center near Torrance and the 91 Freeway. Details are at [Metro.net](http://Metro.net).



### Transfer Free With Silver 2 Silver

Commuters can transfer free between Foothill's Silver Streak and the Metro Silver Line with a valid pass from either. The lines meet up at the newly revamped El Monte bus facility, providing convenient and now lower-cost service between the San Gabriel Valley and downtown Los Angeles. Go to [Foothilltransit.org](http://Foothilltransit.org) for more information.

### Will Holiday Scheduling Affect Your Bus Commute?

Call 511 for updated bus and rail scheduling information, available 24-hours a day, seven days a week, or go online at [Go511.com](http://Go511.com) or [IE511.org](http://IE511.org).

