

On the move



Riverside County
Transportation Commission

2003/2004 ANNUAL REPORT

60/91/215 Interchange Connectors on the Rise

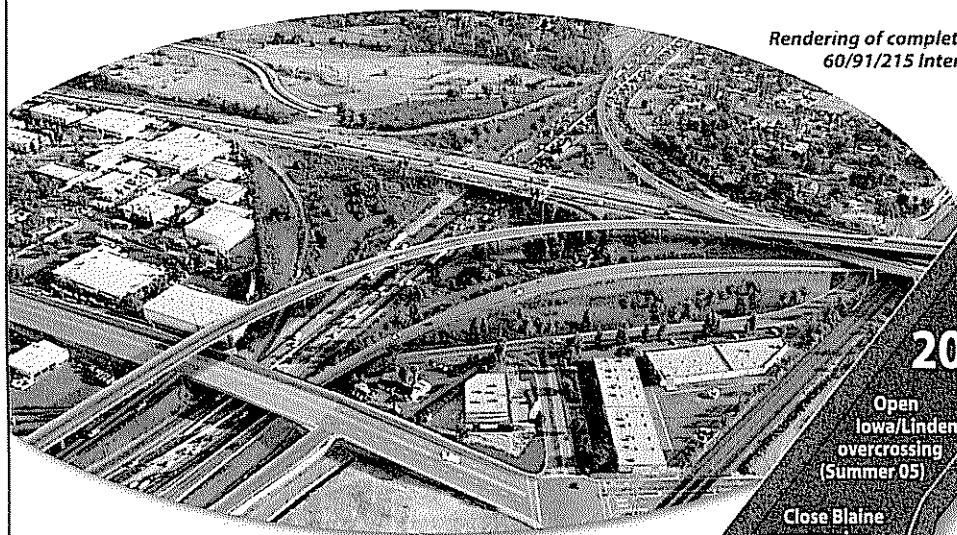
The graceful pillars now rising in the sky above the Riverside County Transportation Commission's (RCTC) most visible project have a lot in common with icebergs. Even as they tower above those who pass by them, almost two-thirds of their height is hidden from view. So how tall are they? The pillars of the new 60/91/215 Interchange will soar 72 feet above the freeway, but the pilings that support them will be sunk 135 feet below grade.

These 207-foot iron cages are the skeleton of two, new direct freeway connectors that will speed travel between Northbound I-215/Westbound Route 60 and Westbound Route 91. The other connector links the Southbound I-215 with the eastbound Route 60.

The final product will be a state-of-the-art facility that will ease one of the region's worst bottlenecks. Construction began

in 2003 and significant strides have already been made on this \$317 million project. Caltrans is the lead construction agency on the project, and has worked closely with RCTC in an effective partnership. In fact, RCTC advanced nearly \$34 million in local funding to ensure the project stayed on track in spite of cutbacks to transportation funding at the state and federal levels.

The project is also being watched statewide because the Design-Sequencing construction method being used to build it significantly reduces both the schedule and costs associated with a project this large. Residents can obtain more information on the project at www.dor.ca.gov/dist8/6091215.



Rendering of completed
60/91/215 Interchange.

71/91 Crunch Gets Relief

State Route 71 will be wider by two lanes in the critical 2.7-mile crunch area between Euclid Avenue and Route 91 during the first half of 2005. When complete, motorists will benefit not only from congestion relief but also the added safety of a four-lane highway with a concrete median barrier. The project includes seven retaining walls and two new bridges for animal undercrossings. The \$8.9 million project is funded through a combination of federal sources and local support from RCTC.

2004

Begin construction
S-E connector
(Summer 04)

Open West
Campus Drive
(Summer 04)

Begin construction
N-W connector
(Summer 04)

Close and
demolish
Iowa/Linden
overcrossing
(Spring 04)

Start WB 60
connector
(Spring 04)

Route 60 Ahead of Schedule

The winter of 2005 will give drivers on Route 60 through Moreno Valley a new choice to help alleviate congestion. The 8.1 miles of carpool lanes now under construction from Day Street to Redlands Boulevard will be completed ahead of schedule by nearly one year. The project was primarily funded using money from the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program which can be used to pay for air quality improvement projects such as carpool lanes.

Progress on Route 111

Measure A funding has already resulted in the construction of a number of projects along State Route 111 in the Coachella Valley. During the past year four street widening projects have been completed along the route, one in the City of Rancho Mirage from Magnesia Falls to Fairway Drive, and three in Palm Desert, Monterey Avenue, San Luis Rey, and Towne Center to El Paseo. The projects included intersection improvements, traffic signal modifications and addition of one lane in each direction to accommodate a total of three through lanes in each direction. The new six lane facility has greatly improved traffic circulation in the two cities.

2006

Open
WB 60 truck
connector
(Summer
06)

Open
Stage 1
Blaine
overcrossing
(Spring 06)

2005

Open
Iowa/Linden
overcrossing
(Summer 05)

Close Blaine
overcrossing
(Summer 05)

2007

Open S-E
connector
to traffic
(Early
Winter 07)

Open N-W
connector
to traffic
(Early
Winter 07)

Connector Facts

Northbound I-215/
Westbound 60 to
Westbound 91

Length: One mile (+)

Number of columns
supporting the connector: 26

Depth of pilings for
each column: 135 ft

Amount of rebar: 3,331 tons

Amount of concrete: 22,498 cubic yards
(the equivalent of 2,500 cement trucks)

Southbound I-215 to Eastbound 60

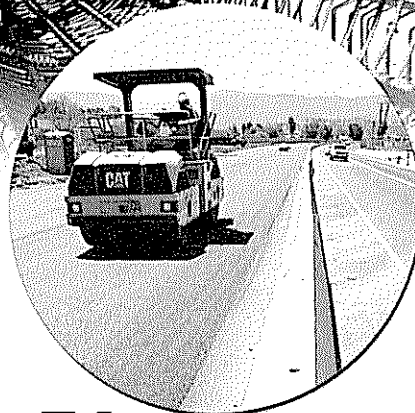
Length: 3,429 ft

Number of columns supporting the connector: 16

Depth of pilings for each column: 115 ft

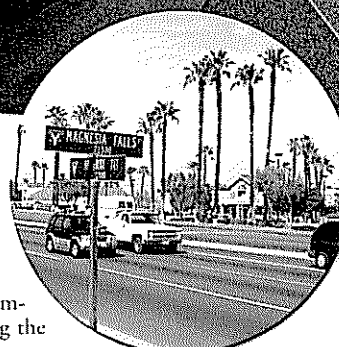
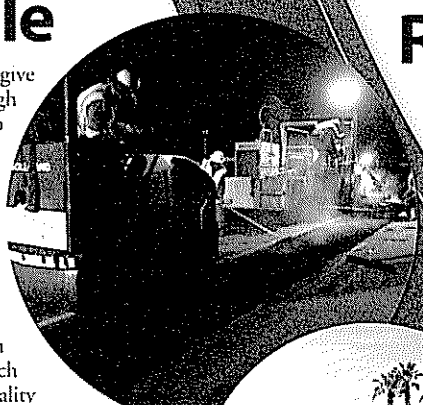
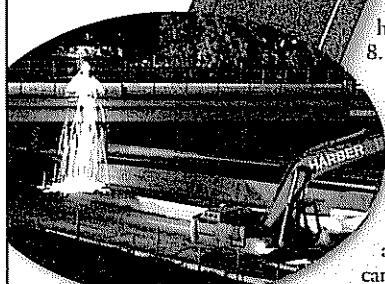
Amount of rebar: 2,407 tons

Amount of concrete: 14,518 cubic yards
(the equivalent of 1,613 cement trucks)



Route 74 Straighter, Wider, Safer

Route 74 from Perris to Lake Elsinore is almost complete. The transformation from two narrow lanes to a four-lane highway with turn lanes, shoulders, and medians is in its last phase. The section from Dexter Avenue in Lake Elsinore to Wasson Canyon Road is complete. The final segment, Wasson Canyon Road to 7th Street, is under construction. Funding for the project, nearly \$70 million, came from Measure A, Riverside County's 1/2¢ sales tax for transportation administered by RCTC.



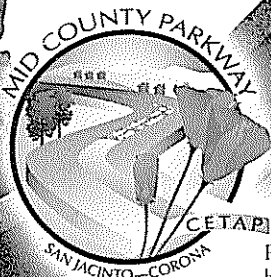
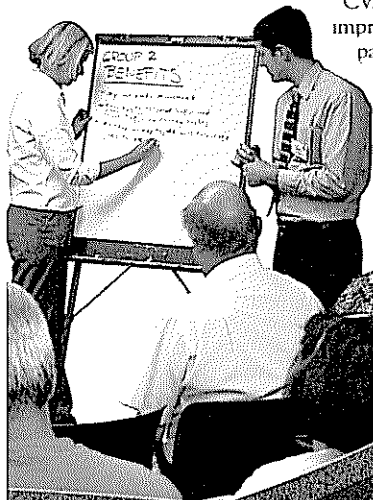
Coachella Valley Meets Challenge

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), in partnership with RCTC, is charged with transportation planning for one of the fastest growing areas in Riverside County. Five new interchanges on the I-10 will be under construction soon. Environmental review is complete for interchanges at Palm/Gene Autry and Date Palm with construction slated to start in 2006. The interchange at Bob Hope will finish environmental studies in the next six months and also has a 2006 start date. Interchanges at Indian and Jefferson are projected to begin in 2007.

The interchanges were made possible through a conservation plan that mitigated the environmental impacts of construction with the purchase of 1795 acres of nature reserve, 1364 acres of which are in the Joshua Hills area. Long range planning to protect the environment while meeting transportation needs is a key element in CVAG's efforts to secure an uncongested future for Coachella Valley residents.

Thirty million dollars in mitigation for future transportation projects is a major component of Coachella Valley's Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan currently under public review. A total of 190,000 acres will be added to 550,000 acres already preserved for wildlife habitat and open space in the region with CVAG and Caltrans projects both covered by the 75 year plan. CVAG's covered projects will be those identified in the Transportation Project Prioritization Study (TPPS) to be updated this January. The new construction priority ranking will address transportation improvements in the fast-growing southeast Coachella Valley, with emphasis on the Highway 86 Expressway.

CVAG is also developing a TPPS-like study for maintaining improvements constructed under the original Measure A, passed by voters in 1988. In support of local cities and the County of Riverside, CVAG is working toward providing pavement management software to identify and conduct preventive maintenance for the regional roads.

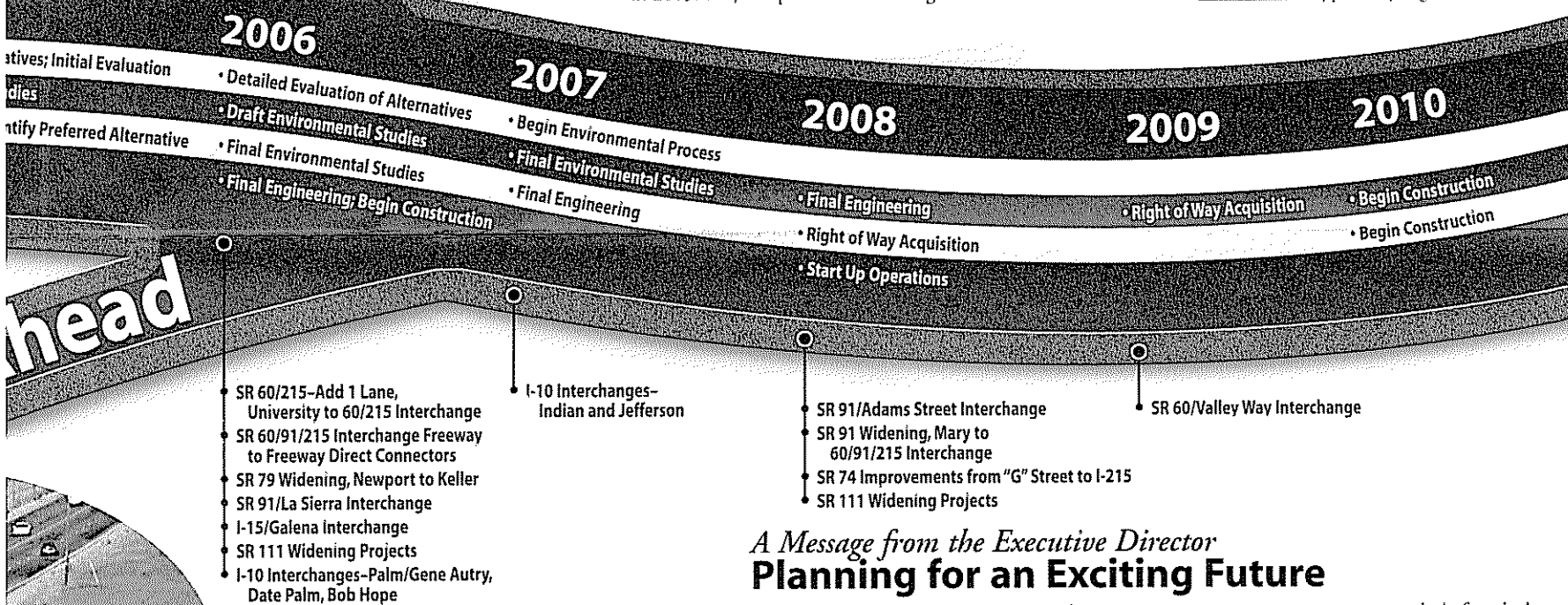


Mid County Parkway Tackles East-West Traffic

The Mid County Parkway is a proposed 32-mile transportation corridor that will relieve traffic congestion for east-west travel between the San Jacinto and Corona areas and significantly reduce congestion and reduce travel times on I-215 and State Routes 91, 74, and 60.

Identified through the Riverside County Integrated Project, the regionwide transportation and environmental plan recently completed by RCTC and the County of Riverside, the corridor roughly follows Cajalco Road in the west and Ramona Expressway in the east. County residents, through their input at public meetings, helped determine the general corridor locations under consideration.

Public meetings were held in September 2004 and additional meetings are slated for the latter part of 2004 and in 2005. Project updates and meeting information will be available at www.midcountyparkway.org.

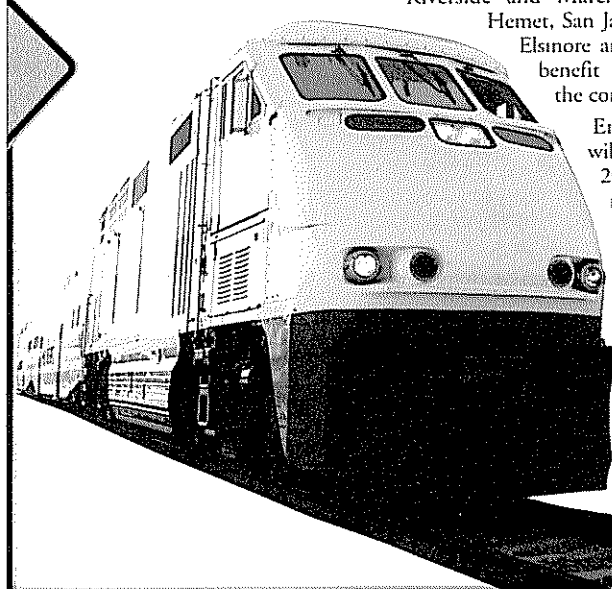


Perris Valley Line on Track for 2008

The Perris Valley Line is a proposed 19-mile extension of Metrolink's Riverside Line, currently providing service from Riverside to downtown Los Angeles. The extension would begin at the existing Riverside-Downtown Station and go north for about two miles before turning southeast along track called the San Jacinto Branch Line.

At start up in 2008, the Perris Valley Line will include up to five new stations, operate through three cities—Riverside, Moreno Valley, and Perris—as well as directly serve UC Riverside and March Air Reserve Base. Hemet, San Jacinto, Murrieta, Lake Elsinore and Temecula will also benefit from better access to the commuter rail network.

Environmental studies will be complete in late 2004 followed by engineering for individual stations. The \$179 million cost will be funded through Measure A and the federal government. For ongoing information log on to perrisvalleyline.info.



A Message from the Executive Director Planning for an Exciting Future

If you're driving in Riverside County, it's easy to look out your window and see busy transportation workers. Construction crews are working on the 60/91/215 interchange, widening State Routes 60, 71, 74, and 111, and working on arterial streets in the Coachella Valley. When you add the large number of local city and county projects, Riverside County can be considered the center of transportation construction in California.

While driving through a construction zone is often slow and sometimes frustrating, it's also an opportunity to see the future take shape. Almost on a weekly basis, old parts of the highway are removed, new sections are added, and structures sprout overnight.

These projects are the product of Riverside County's forward thinking electorate. Their vision of an exciting and prosperous future was behind their 1988 approval of Measure A, the county's half-cent sales tax program, and again when they extended it in 2002. When you add Riverside County's Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee, or TUMF, you have a unique local dedication to infrastructure investment.

That's important in this day and age because California's transportation system is in crisis. During the last four years, the state has diverted more than \$6 billion in transportation funding to its General Fund in order to fund budget shortfalls. But the budget gap is being shrunk at the expense of infrastructure investment that will cost the state future jobs and economic opportunities as projects are delayed or cancelled.

Thanks to Riverside County voters, Measure A and the TUMF will allow RCTC to fulfill its commitment to plan and build highway and rail projects that ensure Riverside County's infrastructure will support a continually improving quality of life and economic progress.

While construction crews and giant machinery may be the most visible aspects of trans-

portation improvements, a great deal of work also takes place out of the public eye. Before construction crews can begin, there are years of planning, traffic studies, public input, environmental analysis, land acquisition, engineering, and financing. During the planning processes we also have the responsibility to protect our environment and natural resources. We are quite fortunate to live in an area of extreme beauty, unique habitats and environmental richness. The transportation facilities that we build must improve our mobility and enhance our environment.

Today, RCTC is at work on dozens of large-scale projects that will transform nearly every corner of Riverside County. And even though it will be a few years before the construction crews get moving, the future holds improvements for the Riverside County—Orange County connection, a new route from San Jacinto to Corona, realignment of Route 79, and additional Metrolink service.

Finally, communicating with the public is especially important to RCTC because we serve Riverside County's residents and taxpayers. That's a main reason why we publish this annual report, but the report is only one effort. In recent months, RCTC has enhanced its investment in public outreach. Public meetings on projects, new internet websites, and regular and project newsletters all seek to provide up-to-date information about RCTC activities. RCTC also offers a speaker's bureau for public events.

RCTC is honored to have the privilege of serving the public and we invite your interest and comments. Please visit us at www.rctc.org.

Thank you,

Eric Haley, Executive Director

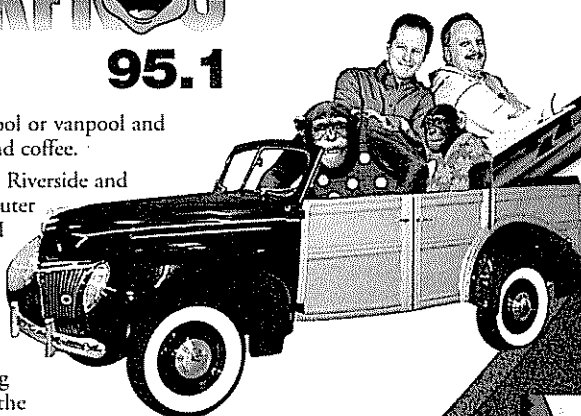
Rideshare Partners Hit the Waves

It seems like an unlikely combination, rideshare mascots, Sharon A. Ride and Scooter Commuter, sharing their woody wagon with KFRG's Frogmen in the Morning, Scott and Bo. But unlikely or not, KFRG and RCTC have launched a unique public-private partnership to promote ridesharing throughout the Inland Empire.

KFRG is hosting a series of promotions over a 12-month period that began last spring with a Limo to Work Contest. And Bo, a deep sea fishing fan, hosted a Metrolink Beach Train and Fishing Trip Excursion last August. Most recently, KFRG hosted remote locations on the 210, 10, 60, and 91 freeways, October 7th during Rideshare Week. The "Catch the Rideshare Wave" promotion included a contest for a trip to

Las Vegas for the winning carpool or vanpool and everyone enjoyed free donuts and coffee.

Is it working? Membership in Riverside and San Bernardino counties' commuter clubs, CLUB RIDE and TEAM RIDE, are at all time highs. And Scott and Bo received special recognition from the Southern California Traffic Reporters for going above and beyond in promoting ridesharing over the radio waves.



Dear Freeway Service Patrol—
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for this extremely smart team you can rely on when you expect it. You helped my car get off the freeway by towing it to the safe place. I was stuck in traffic for hours. I was so grateful to have you there. I hope you can help me again sometime. I will be sure to let you know how much I appreciate you.

Dear Freeway Service Patrol—

I just wanted to thank Mike and Jason for helping me on December 23, 2003. I was driving from work (Anaheim) home (Moreno Valley) on the 60. It was dark and raining. I was stuck in traffic for hours. I was so grateful to have you there. I hope you can help me again sometime. I will be sure to let you know how much I appreciate you.

Dear Freeway Service Patrol—

I just wanted to say how much I appreciated the professional way a few of your employees behaved while helping me last Thursday evening on the 215 Freeway near Riverside. Unfortunately I don't have their names. I had a van full of cheerleaders and they were able to help us get off the freeway and on our way. Please let them know, if possible, how much we appreciated it.

Yours,
Steve Larson

Freeway Service Patrol in the Zone (Construction, that is!)

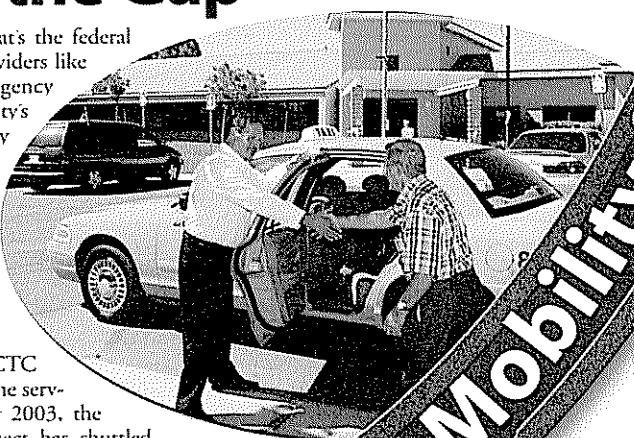
How often does a government program get fan mail? Never, you say. Well the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) is an exception.

One of RCTC's important public services, the program helps motorists who need assistance or a tow off the freeway when their vehicle breaks down, runs out of gas, or gets a flat. The FSP operates on portions of Riverside County's most congested freeways and helps to reduce the spectator slowing that contributes to congestion. The program puts additional FSP vehicles in construction zones, most recently along the State Route 60 HOV and 60/91/215 interchange projects.

Taxis Fill the Gap

Mobility for everyone—that's the federal mandate for local transit providers like the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA). Yet, Riverside County's moderate climate and quality of life continues to attract more and more seniors making that mandate a challenge, especially as the senior population continues to expand. Traditional bus service can only meet some of the needs.

Now, with the help of RCTC and RTA, taxis are filling in the service gaps. Started in October 2003, the one-year demonstration project has shuttled seniors to medical appointments and other similar trips. Funded by Measure A, the innovative project is getting high marks from both the passengers and the taxi operators for convenience, quality of service, and cost-effectiveness.



RCTC Commission Members

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• **Marion Ashley**, County of Riverside • **Anne Mayer**, Governor's Appointee, State of California

Executive Director: Eric A. Haley

Great Rewards for Doubling Up

Why not get started—ridesharing that is? There are lots of options. You can carpool, vanpool, take the train or ride the bus, bicycle, walk or telecommute to and from work. RCTC can help you get started. Solo drivers who sign-up with ADVANTAGE RIDESHARE will receive \$2 per day for each day in their first three months of ridesharing.

You're already doubling up? Well that's what RCTC's CLUB RIDE has done this year, more than quadrupling offers to those who rideshare one day a week or more. Over 400 unlimited offers at restaurants, entertainment venues, and stores reward on-going ridesharers for easing traffic congestion. The offers are listed in a catalogue and there's a members only web site where commuters can get special promotions, enter new contests, and keep their own list of favorites.

For more information on these Measure A funded rideshare services, call 1-866-RIDESHARE.

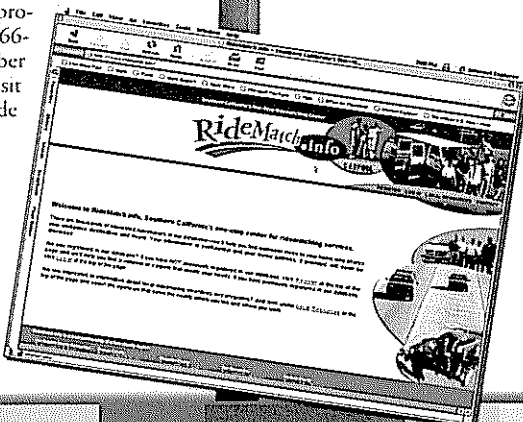
Rideshare Solutions at Your Finger Tips

Wallet on empty? Cut your gasoline bill in half or more by carpooling. Need more time in your day? Downsize your commute by getting into the carpool lane.

The main barrier to these increasingly popular options is, for most of us, connecting with a carpool or vanpool with a similar travel pattern and work hours.

RCTC has solved the problem. Now you can find a carpool or vanpool no matter where you travel in Southern California just by logging on to www.RideMatch.info. RCTC is the lead agency in this five-county effort and maintains a database of thousands of commuters interested in ridesharing. The database comes from those who complete surveys at work or provide registration information on-line and is kept confidential pursuant to state law.

Hate computers? RCTC can also provide assistance over the phone at 1-866-RIDESHARE. This toll-free number offers ridesharing assistance and transit information to residents in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.



Improving Mobility for Everyone