



### **New Ride Matching Web Site Ready for Rideshare Week, Oct. 6-10**

By DAVE SOTERO

(Oct. 3, 2003) In anticipation of Rideshare Week, Oct. 6-10, MTA and four other county agencies are launching a newly designed Web site that enables commuters interested in ridesharing to easily find each other anywhere in Southern California.

Located on the Web at [www.RideMatch.Info](http://www.RideMatch.Info) and via MTA's Web site at [www.mta.net](http://www.mta.net), the site is a joint partnership of MTA, the Orange County Transportation Authority, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Bernardino Associated Governments and Ventura County Transportation Commission.

All share and maintain the on-line rideshare database, which provides regional contacts, maps and other resources needed for commuters to initiate rideshare relationships. Currently, more than 300,000 commuters are registered in the database, with more added every day.

This year's Rideshare Week follows on the heels of a study by the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) showing that Southern California drivers spent about 90 extra hours stuck in traffic in 2001. Bay Area motorists spent 68 extra hours behind the wheel, while Denver drivers were stalled in traffic for 61 extra hours.

#### **Billions of dollars wasted**

According to TTI's annual Urban Mobility Study, traffic congestion caused "5.7 billion gallons of wasted fuel and 3.5 billion hours of lost productivity," costing the nation \$69.5 billion -- \$4.5 billion more than 2000.

"Ridesharing is an excellent way for people to share the cost of driving and use carpool lanes to get to work faster," said David Sutton, MTA's Employer Programs manager. "During Rideshare Week, we encourage everyone to 'pick a day, any day' to rideshare."

This year, MTA is offering LA County commuters the chance to win a Rideshare Week T-shirt and prize package on its Web site. The prize package consists of a CD holder, antenna ball, pens and more. A dozen winners will be announced Oct. 14.

MTA's Metro Commute Services Department helps promote alternatives to driving alone, including carpooling, vanpooling, taking transit, bicycling, walking, and telecommuting, as well as such "smart work" strategies as flex-time, or compressed work schedules.

Commuters interested in ridesharing can register on-line at [www.RideMatch.Info](http://www.RideMatch.Info) by submitting their contact information and their home and work locations. They can specify nearby intersections, their work start and end times, carpool and/or vanpool preferences and schedule flexibility.

The database does not yet contain information relating to Metro Bus and Rail service, but public transportation information will be integrated with RideMatch.Info early next year.

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