In partnership with Caltrans, Metro is embarking on a one-year demonstration program that will convert existing carpool lanes on the I-10 (El Monte Busway) and the I-10 (Harbor Freeway Transit Way) freeways to high-occupancy toll lanes. The new adopted toll range from 25 cents to $1.40 a mile for solo drivers using the Express Lanes. Tolls will go into effect with the opening of the Express Lanes in December 2010. Metro Staff estimate that the average trip on the I-10 Express Lanes will be nine miles for an average toll of $5.

Present day carpoolers, vanpoolers, motorcycles, and public transit users will not be charged a toll to use the lanes. Solo drivers, who currently are not allowed to use the lanes, will be allowed to use the Expresses by paying a toll. No tolls will be charged in mixed flow traffic lanes.

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The toll price will be variable depending on traffic flow. This is to ensure vehicles in the Express Lanes travel at a minimum of 45 miles per hour. It will be cheaper to access the Express Lanes during non-peak hours, or opt for public transit, carpools and vanpools and pay no tolls.

The purpose of the demonstration is to squeeze more capacity out of crowded freeways in a region where building new freeways is almost impossible because land is not available and there is a lack of funding for new construction.

### Construction on the 405 Freeway

A recent groundbreaking ceremony in the Sepulveda Pass marked the official launch of the northbound San Diego Freeway (I-405) High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV, or carpool) lane extension. Construction of the 10-mile lane is expected to take roughly four years. It will complete the carpool lane system on I-405 in Los Angeles County, making it possible for motorists to ride in a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane in both directions all the way from the San Fernando Valley to Orange County.

This HOV lane is the first design/build highway project in Caltrans’ local District 7. Design/Build is a method of construction and project development that allows one entity to provide both design and construction through a single contract between the Department and the contractor. It evolved from the opinion that many construction projects could be more cost-effective if they were implemented faster.

Caltrans and Metro are working as partners on the project, with Metro as the lead agency for project implementation while Caltrans maintains responsibility for design approvals and construction oversight.

### Customer Satisfaction Surveys

Commuter services and Information completed distributing and collecting Customer Satisfaction Surveys. Thank you for taking the time to provide your invaluable comments and suggestions. Your input was reviewed and is being carefully considered to help us improve the Vanpool Program. We are pleased to announce that over 50% of our vanpool participants responded to this year’s survey.

Nicole Ott, of Thousand Oaks #2 and Christina Cho of the Hacienda Heights vans were this year’s winners of the one free month of vanpool service for taking the survey. Their names were randomly picked from the surveys submitted prior to the deadline. Congratulations to the both of them and thanks again to everyone who took the survey.

### Vanpool Highlights

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) recently honored UCLA Transportation, along with other businesses and individuals “who keep Southern California moving,” with a Rideshare Diamond Award for last summer’s “Take a Vacation from the Pump” campaign. The campaign offered free bus passes for the entire summer on the transit system of the commuter’s choice to staff and faculty drivers who gave up their parking passes. Those who didn’t become public transit converts when this “try transit” promotion ended last September were guaranteed to get their parking passes back in the Fall.

Of the 380 people who participated, only 118 — less than one-third — reclaimed their parking passes.

It is each driver’s responsibility to maintain their Current Medical Certificate (valid for 1-2 years) and Sworn Statement (valid 1 year) Cards in their possession at all times while driving the vanpool and make sure that the Vanpool office has a copy on file. Check your wallet or purse, if you don’t have it contact us Immediately. Absolutely no one may drive if their certificates are expired.

Convenient and Cost Effective: You may, at your own convenience prior to the expiration date, renew your DMV Medical Certificate with your own doctor just stop by our office and pick up the DMV medical form. We will reimburse your copayment, just bring your receipt.
The UCLA Sustainability Committee is committed to creating and advancing a culture of sustainability within the UCLA community. A sustainable society is one that is environmentally viable, economically robust, and socially just and equitable one that meets the needs of the present without compromising the resources for future generations. Here are some programs that UCLA offers to help you take steps to a “greener” office.

**White Paper Recycling** – White paper, unlike several other grades of paper, can be recycled to make more white paper.

Recycling outside the office – UCLA now has over 60 beverage container recycling clusters around campus. If you keep an eye out, you can find a recycling bin almost anywhere on campus.

**CD and DVD Recycling** – UCLA Software Central is coordinating a campus-wide initiative to recycle old CD, CD-ROM and DVD disks.

**Electronic Waste Recycling** – It is illegal to throw away any electronic devices in the trash cans. You can drop-off your E-waste at the UCLA S.A.F.E. collection center.

**Ink and Toner Cartridge Recycling** – Many ink cartridge manufacturers provide a pre-paid envelope to return old cartridges for recycling when you order a new cartridge. If not, UCLA is committed to recycling ink and toner cartridges.

The recycling office will gladly receive your cartridges and dispose of them properly. For more information please go to www.sustain.ucla.edu.

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**Vanpool ins and Outs**

The UCLA Vanpool office is always striving to make sure your vanpool experience is hassle-free. Here are some tips to help you along the way.

- All payments are due by the first of the month. Any payments not received by 5pm on the 8th of the month are subject to a $30 late fee. Payments dropped in the express box will be processed on the same business day if they are stamped before 12pm. Anything received after 12pm, will be processed the following business day, which could also result in a late fee.

  - If you are a UCLA employee, check with the Vanpool Office to see if you qualify for payroll deduction, and save $5 each month, if you are a Non-UCLA passenger you can do a three month pre-pay and receive a $5 dollar discount off of each month. Check with our office for complete details.

  - Don’t get left behind, arrive to your vanpool stops at least five minutes before your scheduled pick up time.

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**Seat belt usage** is required by law and for everyone when riding in any University vehicle including Vanpools. Wearing a seatbelt significantly increases your chance of survival in the event of an accident. Notify the Vanpool Office immediately if someone refuses to wear their seatbelt and do not start the van until everyone has buckled their belts. If needed Fleet Services has seat belt extensions; please contact Ray Reyes for more information at 310-825-3250.

**Watch your Mileage**

The UCLA Vanpool Office has audited the personal mileage for all vans. We are asking drivers not to use their personal mileage unless you understand the rules and guidelines of the personal mileage allotment. If you have any questions or concerns about your personal mileage, please contact the vanpool office at 310-206-7565.

**Coming Soon!!**

New routes and vacant seats now available:

- Arcadia #3, Burbank #2, Agura #3, Eagle Rock (p.m.), Inglewood #2, Lynwood/Compton, Palmdale #4 & #13, Pasadena #4, Riverside/Perris, South Central LA & San Pedro #2, Woodland Hills #2, and many more! Seats are sold on a first-come first-served basis. Call (310) 206-7565 today to join and enjoy the benefits of vanpooling.

**Editorial Review Board**

Produced By: UCLA Transportation - Commuter Services and Information

Editor-in-Chief: LaDonna DeVicente

Copy Editor: Charles Carter

Phone: 310-206-7565
Fax: 310-267-2093
Email: Vanpool@ts.ucla.edu

If you have an interesting story we would love to hear it.