

# METROLINK **MATTERS** NEWS & EVENTS

## FAMILY FUN WITH THE \$10 WEEKEND DAY PASS



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## WORD FROM THE CEO



**A**fter just three months as Metrolink's new CEO, I have much to share with you. First, I'd like to thank those of you who took the time to respond to my on-board and on-line surveys. Your comments and feedback have helped me better understand what's important to you.

Many of you indicated that you would like to have free Wi-Fi available on the trains so you can stay connected to your friends, family, or even your offices during your travel times. I've instructed my staff to explore the feasibility of installing WiFi, which is an estimated \$10 million project, but I believe is the right choice to make for our customers.

Others of you raised the issue of the outdated ticket vending machines and the frustration you encounter on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis while securing valid fare. I want to thank you for your continued patience as we work toward updating the software on the machines, as well as implementing a mobile ticketing option in the coming months. You'll begin to see the preliminary steps of mobile technology this summer on the Antelope Valley Line. Conductors will be utilizing hand-held mobile devices to check and validate fares. Later this year, we will begin rolling out a mobile ticketing pilot program on select lines. This transition to mobile ticketing could reduce the need for ticket vending machines and save Metrolink upwards of \$30 million while improving your customer experience.

There were many comments from you regarding our on-time performance. I want to assure you that we are working closely with our rail partners to minimize any third-party delays. In addition, I am very pleased to report that, along with the 20 new, low-emission Tier 4 locomotives that will go into service in 2017, Metrolink has just received funding to procure up to nine more of these state-of-the-art engines. This is great news, as newer locomotives mean improved dependability over our increasingly aging fleet. Plus, the Tier 4 locomotives have cleaner-burning engines, which will reduce emissions by up to 85 percent over some of our older locomotives. Additionally, Metrolink and our member agencies are undertaking some double-tracking projects. Having two tracks side-by-side in strategic locations can significantly reduce waiting times for our passengers, as trains will be able to travel past each other rather than having to wait in a siding for one train to pass before the other can proceed.

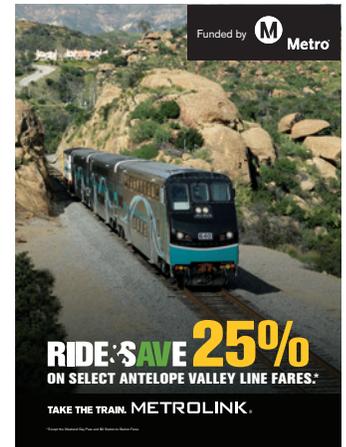
Other comments expressed concern about the price of tickets. Metrolink is now testing a pilot program we hope will result in higher ridership. On July 1, Antelope Valley Line fares were reduced by 25 percent and station-to-station trips are now just \$2 along this corridor. Across our entire service area, youth and student fares were reduced by 25 percent. This six-month experiment should provide data to determine whether lowering fares will increase ridership and revenue.

I always appreciate your feedback and want you to know our staff reviews and understands your concerns. The Metrolink team works diligently to address these challenges and looks forward to continuing to provide you with the best passenger rail service possible. If you have additional comments you'd like to share, please take a moment and let me know at [metrolinktrains.com/feedback](http://metrolinktrains.com/feedback). Thank you.

*Arthur T. Leahy*

ARTHUR T. LEAHY | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | METROLINK

## ANTELOPE VALLEY LINE DISCOUNTS



Starting July 1, Metrolink began offering discounted fares to riders on the Antelope Valley Line as part of a fare pilot program that will be in place for six months. The pilot program received funding from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). Metrolink is taking a comprehensive look at current fare structure throughout the system and will identify potential fare changes to benefit passengers and improve ridership.

The pilot program will include several new ticket pricing options for riders on the Antelope Valley Line, including a 25 percent reduction in fares on all ticket types for trips along the corridor spanning Los Angeles to Lancaster, with the exception of the Weekend Day Pass, which will remain at the current \$10 fare. A new \$2 "station-to-station" fare will also be introduced for riders traveling between communities along the Antelope Valley Line. For more details, go to: [metrolinktrains.com/avdiscount](http://metrolinktrains.com/avdiscount).

# POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL UPDATE



Metrolink was pleased to host U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) when she visited Los Angeles Union Station in July to discuss the safety benefits of Positive Train Control (PTC) and highlight the need to quickly implement this life-saving technology nationwide.

Metrolink now has Positive Train Control (PTC) operating on the entire 341-mile network the agency manages. A safety plan was submitted for review to the Federal Railroad Administration at the end of June. Metrolink is the first railroad in the nation to have PTC running during regular service on all of its hosted lines and remains on track to become the nation's first passenger rail system to have a fully operational, interoperable, and certified PTC system in place by the federal deadline of December 31, 2015.



*United States Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Metrolink Board members Vice-Chair Daryl Busch, Director Larry McCallon, Director Richard Katz, Director Karen Spiegel, and Director Debbie Franklin joined Metrolink CEO Art Leahy at L.A. Union Station to learn about the progress of the implementation of Positive Train Control on Friday, July 17, 2015*

## THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE AS WE CONTINUE TO INTEGRATE POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL



As you may know, Positive Train Control, or PTC, is the newest technology available for railroad safety. PTC utilizes a Global Positioning System (GPS) and is capable of preventing train-to-train collisions, over-speed derailments, and other errors that could occur with manually-operated trains.

Following several tragic passenger train accidents across the nation, congress mandated the implementation of PTC on all rail systems by December 31, 2015. Over the last 18 months, Metrolink has become a leader in implementing this safety technology and is on target to have PTC fully certified and operational by the deadline.

We ask you for your patience while our crews and engineers implement this life-saving technology. You and your fellow passengers may experience occasional slow-downs or momentary train stoppages as we get the system completely up and running. Over the next few weeks, we will be making the system more safe and efficient for your travels. We will then evaluate and possibly adjust our train schedules to better coincide with the improved functionality of PTC.

## CREATE A MY METROLINK ACCOUNT AND STAY UP-TO-DATE

Sign up for a My Metrolink account and receive train status alerts, Metrolink news, and promotions of interest to you. We promise we won't clog your inbox, but we will be sure to keep you informed of what you find important. To register, go to: [metrolinktrains.com/register](http://metrolinktrains.com/register).



**See Tracks?  
THINK  
TRAIN**

**ALWAYS EXPECT A TRAIN  
ANY TRACK, ANY TIME, ANY DIRECTION.**

**SIEMPRE ESPERE UN TREN  
EN CUALQUIER RIEL, EN CUALQUIER MOMENTO,  
EN CUALQUIER DIRECCIÓN.**

**METROLINK®**  
metrolinktrains.com/safety

**CALIFORNIA RAIL SAFETY MONTH: SEE TRACKS? THINK TRAIN!**

September is Rail Safety Month in California, making it the perfect time to remind you to keep safety in mind every time you approach a railroad crossing. In 2009, the California Legislature designated the month of September as Rail Safety Month to encourage government, industries, and local citizens to improve rail crossing safety and increase support for rail safety. Because the fact is, every three hours someone is hit by a train in the United States. Either on foot or in a vehicle, the resulting risk is the same – severe injury, or even death. So be sure that whenever you’re standing on station platforms, driving, or even walking across a crossing, always remain alert for oncoming trains.

The “See Tracks? Think Train!” messages are part of ongoing educational efforts at schools, with law enforcement, first responders, professional drivers, and community organizations throughout the state. You can help keep our communities safe by sharing this rail safety education awareness campaign. For more information on the campaign or to request a speaker to discuss rail safety in your community, please call (800) 371-5465 (LINK) or visit [metrolinktrains.com/safety](http://metrolinktrains.com/safety).

**HOLIDAY SERVICE ALERT**

**LABOR DAY  
WEEKEND  
SEPTEMBER 5 - 7**



In observance of Labor Day, Metrolink will not operate on Monday, September 7, with the exception of limited bus service on the Antelope Valley Line only.

In addition, there will be no rail service on the Antelope Valley Line between Saturday, September 5 and Monday, September 7 due to multiple track projects. Metrolink will provide alternate bus service between Lancaster and Los Angeles Union Station.

Regular weekend service will operate on all other Metrolink lines on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, please visit [metrolinktrains.com/laborday](http://metrolinktrains.com/laborday).

**METROLINK 101**  
INTRODUCTION TO AFFORDABLE COMMUTING

**25%  
YOUTH/STUDENT  
DISCOUNT\***

comfort | convenience | value

\*except Weekend Day Pass [Click here for details.](#)

**YOUTH AND STUDENT DISCOUNT**

Students of all ages and/or riders 18 and younger can receive a 25 percent discount on a Monthly Pass, 7-Day Pass, One-Way Ticket, or Round-Trip Ticket. Please present valid Student I.D. to the fare inspector upon request.

ON THE COVER

# THE WOODS FAMILY

## Claim to Fame:

Family Outings with the \$10 Weekend Day Pass



## Represents:

Ventura County Line

### A QUICK CHAT WITH THE WOODS FAMILY

**ML: Tell us a little about yourself and your family.**

CW: My name is Curtis Woods and I was born and raised in Los Angeles. I attended Cal State Northridge and have lived in the San Fernando Valley ever since. My fiancée, Merlin, was born in El Salvador and was mostly raised in Los Angeles too. Our children are Christopher (9), Vanessa (7), and Luna (12; not pictured). In our free time, we enjoy exploring different cities and traveling abroad whenever possible. Most of our weekends are spent either hiking at Stoney Point Park, biking along the Metro Orange Line path, or spending time with other family members.

**ML: What first attracted you to train travel? Did you grow up riding trains?**

CW: Since we live close to the Chatsworth Metrolink Station, we have always wanted to see what it was like to ride the trains that we see pass by so often. None of us had ever taken a train before and we didn't really know how the system worked or how far it traveled. After a little studying, I was fascinated to realize the scope and scale of the Metrolink system, and was intrigued by the value of the \$10 Weekend Day Pass.

**ML: Tell us about your family trip on Metrolink.**

CW: We decided to make it a full day adventure to San Juan Capistrano by starting at Union Station in Downtown L.A. Beforehand, we shopped at Olvera Street and ate lunch at Union Station. Then we grabbed some snacks and boarded the train. The kids had fun walking from car to car trying to find the "perfect" seat, which was an adventure in itself. Ultimately, they settled on a table seat and were surprised to find outlets to charge their iPads. During the ride, it was great to see our city from a different perspective for the first time. Before we knew it, we were at our destination – San Juan Capistrano.

As we exited the train, it was nice to see that we had landed in the middle of the quaint historic district. We took some time to wander through the streets and eventually ended up at the petting zoo. We stopped to feed the animals, play in the corn kernel box (sandbox full of corn kernels), and mine crystals. Later, we stopped by the café for salads and sandwiches, followed by ice cream and pastries at a bakery before we boarded the train home.

**ML: Are you planning any other Metrolink trips? If so, where will you go?**

CW: Yes, we had so much fun on this trip that our family will be planning another Metrolink adventure this summer. Most likely, we will take the train to an Angels baseball game in Anaheim.

**ML: If you could tell a new rider something about traveling by Metrolink, what would that be?**

CW: Our two most significant discoveries during our first-time trip on Metrolink were that the stations are super convenient and the trains are surprisingly quiet. We noticed that most of the Metrolink stations are located in either a business district or easily accessible by local residents. I did not expect that such a large form of transportation would fit so well into so many different areas of our city.

On our way home, we also noticed that we never heard a single train horn during our trip! Even with the cozy cabins and the awesome amenities, we were sure that our conversations were going to be interrupted by the loud safety horns we hear at crossings. To our surprise, we not only enjoyed a very quiet and comfortable cabin, we also kept our conversation to a quiet "indoor-voice" level. Who would have thought that the inside of a train would be as quiet as a library?



Photos: Curtis K. Woods, II

TAKE THE TRAIN. METROLINK.  
**RIDE & JOY**

**METROLINK RIDERS SAVE AT THESE AND MANY MORE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EVENTS AND DESTINATIONS.**

## ORANGE INTERNATIONAL STREET FAIR SEPT. 4 - 6



Every Labor Day weekend, the quaint city of Orange hosts the Orange International Street Fair in the Plaza Square Park. Full of music, international food booths, and fun, the fair attracts visitors from all over Southern California.

The fair recommends taking Metrolink to avoid the hassles of parking. The Orange Metrolink station is just two short blocks from the street fair. Best of all, you'll pay only \$10 with a Metrolink Weekend Day Pass. For more information, visit: [metrolinktrains.com/destinationorange](http://metrolinktrains.com/destinationorange).

## TAKE METROLINK TO THE L.A. COUNTY FAIR AND SAVE ON ADMISSION



Experience the 2015 Los Angeles County Fair September 4 - 27 at the Fairplex in Pomona. With food, shopping, animals, and amazing attractions, the fair is more than you've ever imagined. Enjoy new attractions such as Popnology which combines pop culture and technology, and the larger-than-life Chinese lantern festival, Luminasia, returning for its final year.

Metrolink makes it easy to get to the fair on the weekends with more than 30 trains to choose from. Most San Bernardino Line weekend trains will make a special stop at the Fairplex station where you can catch a free shuttle to the Yellow Gate entrance. The \$10 Weekend Day Pass is a great value, and all monthly pass holders can ride free to the fair on weekends.

Metrolink riders save up to 50% off fair admission by purchasing tickets online at [www.lacountyfair.com](http://www.lacountyfair.com) and using the promo code METROLINK. Offer is not valid at the box office. For more information, go to [metrolinktrains.com/LACF](http://metrolinktrains.com/LACF).

## TAKE THE ANGELS EXPRESS PLUS KIDS RIDE FREE IN AUGUST!



Don't get stuck in traffic and pay to park at Angel Stadium – ride the Angels Express! This popular train service is back again for the fourth consecutive season. Arrive at least 30 minutes early to get your tickets to depart from either Laguna Niguel/ Mission Viejo or L.A. Union Station at 5:50 p.m. for all Angels weeknight 7:05 p.m. home games. Also, for Friday night 7:05 p.m. home games, there is roundtrip train service from Riverside on the Inland Empire-Orange County Line. Ride to and from Angel Stadium for only \$7 roundtrip for adults, \$6 for senior/ disabled, \$4 for youth (ages 6 - 18), and free for children 5 and under with a paying adult (up to 3 children). The train takes you just a short walk away from the action. Visit [metrolinktrains.com/angelsexpress](http://metrolinktrains.com/angelsexpress) for more information.

*This train service is a joint demonstration project made possible in part by the Clean Transportation Funding from the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC).*

## KIDS RIDE FREE ON ANGELS EXPRESS

This August, kids 18 and under can ride free on all Angels Express trains Monday through Thursday. Take the whole family out to the ballgame and save!

## DEAD SEA SCROLLS: THE EXHIBITION ENDS SEPTEMBER 7



Enjoy \$3 off adult admission to Dead Sea Scrolls: The Exhibition and \$2 off adult admission to any IMAX film. Use promo code BRONZE.

The California Science Center, in cooperation with the Israel Antiquities Authority, is proud to present the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition, which explores the science and significance of these ancient manuscripts written and hidden in caves 2,000 years ago, which were not discovered until 1947. The exhibition also features sections from 10 selections of the Dead Sea Scrolls, more than half never seen before in the U.S., including parts of the oldest known copies of the Hebrew Bible, also known as the Old Testament. The exhibit runs through September 7. For more information, visit [metrolinktrains.com/deadseascrolls](http://metrolinktrains.com/deadseascrolls).