



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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**CEO Roger Snoble**

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## **Metro Increases Ridership Due To High Gas Costs**

Media Relations issued a news release today noting that with the rise in gas prices, Metro is experiencing a significant increase in ridership. In the first quarter of 2006, total Metro Rail ridership rose almost 11.4 percent and Metro Bus ridership increased 7 percent over the same period last year, based on total monthly boardings. The release also notes that the most significant gains were seen on the Metro Red Line between North Hollywood and downtown Los Angeles. It climbed nearly 13.7 percent. Ridership on the Metro Orange Line continues to grow to more than 18,000 weekday boarding passengers.

NBC Nightly News interviewed Media Relations staff today for a story they are preparing on the high costs of gasoline and increase in the use of public transit. The piece will air tonight. Metro Networks, The Los Angeles Times, The Daily News, Ch. 22/52, Reuters, ABC News and CNN also inquired today regarding ridership increases. Staff noted that, while ridership spikes typically occur during high gas price increases, more riders to Metro Bus and Rail, as well as other ridesharing options such as vanpools and carpools, will help mitigate commuting costs for L.A. County residents.

## **Editorial On Hiring Part-Time Bus Operators**

The San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group is planning an editorial that advocates the hiring of part-time bus operators as a solution for attracting much-needed drivers for Metro's bus fleet. While not commenting on current labor negotiations with the paper's editorial staff, Metro staff clarified that it does not hire bus operators directly into the part-time classification. Operators must first be hired into BDOF, and afterwards can be promoted to part-time. The editorial is expected to run tomorrow.

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