



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Downtown Commute Fast, Reliable, Inexpensive
**MTA ENCOURAGES VALLEY COMMUTERS
TO SWAP CARS, TRUCKS FOR SUBWAY**

With the traffic crunch returning after the holidays, gas prices still high and the rainy season here, MTA has mounted a marketing campaign encouraging San Fernando Valley commuters and others to take advantage of the Metro Red Line subway.

Billboards tout the time savings and convenience of riding the subway to work and other destinations including Hollywood and Universal City. Rain or shine, no matter how clogged traffic is on the surface, subway riders can journey from the Valley to downtown Los Angeles in 20 minutes. It's only a 15 minute ride to Hollywood.

Free parking at the Metro Rail stations at North Hollywood, 5350 Lankershim Boulevard, and Universal City, 3901 Lankershim Boulevard, is being expanded. There are 919 parking spaces at the North Hollywood station at Lankershim and Chandler. Another 188 parking spaces across the street will be ready in mid February.

At the Universal City station, on Lankershim just south of Ventura Boulevard, there are now 390 parking spaces. Another 165 spaces will be available by late summer when the 101 Freeway overpass connecting to the Metro Rail lot is completed.

MTA makes it easy for transit users to leave their cars at home. The North Hollywood Metro Rail station is served by a half a dozen Metro Bus Lines while the new Line 750 Metro Rapid Bus and six regular Metro Bus lines provide direct service to the Universal City station. In addition, there are bike racks and lockers at both Metro Rail Valley stations.

More...

1st Add/Metro Red Line

A one way ticket costs just \$1.35. Transfers to the Metro Blue Line to Long Beach or the Metro Green Line service to El Segundo and Norwalk or Metro Bus connections is just 25 cents. Discount tokens cost only 90 cents for a regular ride and are sold in packages of 10. Weekly, semi-monthly and monthly passes, good for unlimited Metro Rail and Metro Bus rides also are available at many locations.

Special discounts also are offered senior citizens, students and disabled persons.

For details on Metro Bus feeder service, Metro Rail routes and schedules and fares, and sales outlets, call 1-800-Commute or use the interactive trip planner on MTA's Internet site at www.mta.net.

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