

# METROLINK **Matters** News & Events

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# WORD FROM THE CEO

ARTHUR T. LEAHY | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | METROLINK

Dear Riders,

Metrolink has been awarded \$876 million in grants from the State's Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) to make the Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion (SCORE) program a reality. SCORE is a 10 year, \$10 billion vision to improve the rail system throughout the region.

Of this \$876 million grant, we have received \$6.5 million from the California Transportation Commission to begin designing, rail operations modeling and start environmental assessments on the first projects to kick off the SCORE program. These projects include improvements at L.A. Union Station, dedicated passenger tracks between Los Angeles and Fullerton, platform and station upgrades and better train-to-train transfers.

Once complete, we will have the ability to offer more frequent an reliable service on our lines, which will make Metrolink a viable alternative to the nation's most congested freeways. These projects were carefully selected as they are the first steps necessary to support the program. Each of our seven lines will see some type of improvement in these projects, ranging from new signals to new tracks and sidings or even station and platform improvements.

Inside this edition of Metrolink Matters, you will be able to read specifics about the projects we've selected, and how our vision of this program came together, and how it will improve your commuting life. To stay updated and share your support on SCORE, visit [metrolinktrains.com/score](http://metrolinktrains.com/score).

*Arthur T. Leahy*

# REMEMBERING THE CHATSWORTH TRAGEDY



September 12 marked 10 years since the devastating collision of Metrolink Ventura County Line train 111 and a Union Pacific freight train in Chatsworth. Twenty-five people lost their lives and another 135 were injured.

lives and the impacts it made to Metrolink and the rail industry. The 25 who lost their lives were named and the bell from train 111 was rung for each person in their honor.

In remembrance of the lives lost and forever changed, our leadership, staff, elected officials, industry leaders, first responders and family members and friends gathered at L.A. Union Station to share how the tragedy changed their

We remember those we lost, those who were injured and those who were impacted and reaffirm our commitment to providing to be the safest railroad possible.

ON THE COVER

# THE FUTURE OF COMMUTING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMES TO LIFE WITH SCORE



## SCORE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPTIMIZED RAIL EXPANSION

**E**arlier this year, Metrolink introduced a new vision for the future of the Southern California Rail System: **Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion (SCORE).**

SCORE is a \$10 billion, 10-year program that will improve the region's rail system which also eases the region's worsening traffic on the nation's busiest freeways, reduce emissions and help freight move more freely on local freeways and rail corridors to support our powerhouse economy and jobs. Southern California is a growing region with affordable housing moving further from dense job centers, forcing more people to commute daily.

By improving the rail system, Metrolink can provide more frequent, reliable and faster passenger rail service throughout the region, providing a viable alternative to crowded freeways while allowing Metrolink and Amtrak to steer enough drivers off crowded freeways to ease congestion and reduce emissions.

An estimated 3.4 billion vehicle miles traveled will be removed as drivers switch to trains and 51.6 million metric tons of greenhouse gases will be avoided. Dedicated track for freight trains also will be added in key corridors where track is now shared by commuter trains. This will clear bottlenecks, which cause delays for freight trains who pass on costs to customers. It also enhances safety and saves lives.

All counties in the Metrolink system will benefit from targeted investments such as major track additions, new signal and switch improvements, station upgrades and maintenance facility enhancements. These will allow all day, bi-directional service with 15-30 minute frequencies across the region not just to Los Angeles but also between suburban areas connecting Orange County to Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Among other SCORE benefits, safety enhancements at crossings will enable Quiet Zones designations, where horns are not routinely blown at rail crossings throughout Southern California.

Nearly \$1.2 billion in regional rail improvements are already approved by the state. These funds can be leveraged to secure other local, state and federal dollars to fund the entire SCORE program.

Removing chokepoints and increasing capacity with dedicated tracks and sidings will improve safety, speed and reliability and allow for express service and more quiet zones throughout the Metrolink system.

Metrolink's first set of projects will be on the segments of its system with the highest regional ridership and the most pressing service constraints can be addressed most economically.

The projects chosen in the first round were recommended by the state based on a regionally focused goal of a quick increase in service levels for critical areas across the system.

SCORE is a joint vision of LOSSAN, Amtrak, Metrolink, California High Speed Rail and freight railroad interests for rail operations in Southern California. Passenger, intercity, freight and future high-speed rail operators all came together to create the vision. Without targeted investments, the rail system will not be able to meet the expected demand in future years, risking slowed freight and passenger services and more congestion.

As the program continues, Metrolink will share exciting project details and milestones in this new era of rail travel in Southern California. Sign up to receive regular updates at [metrolinktrains.com/score](http://metrolinktrains.com/score).



METROLINK



LOSSAN








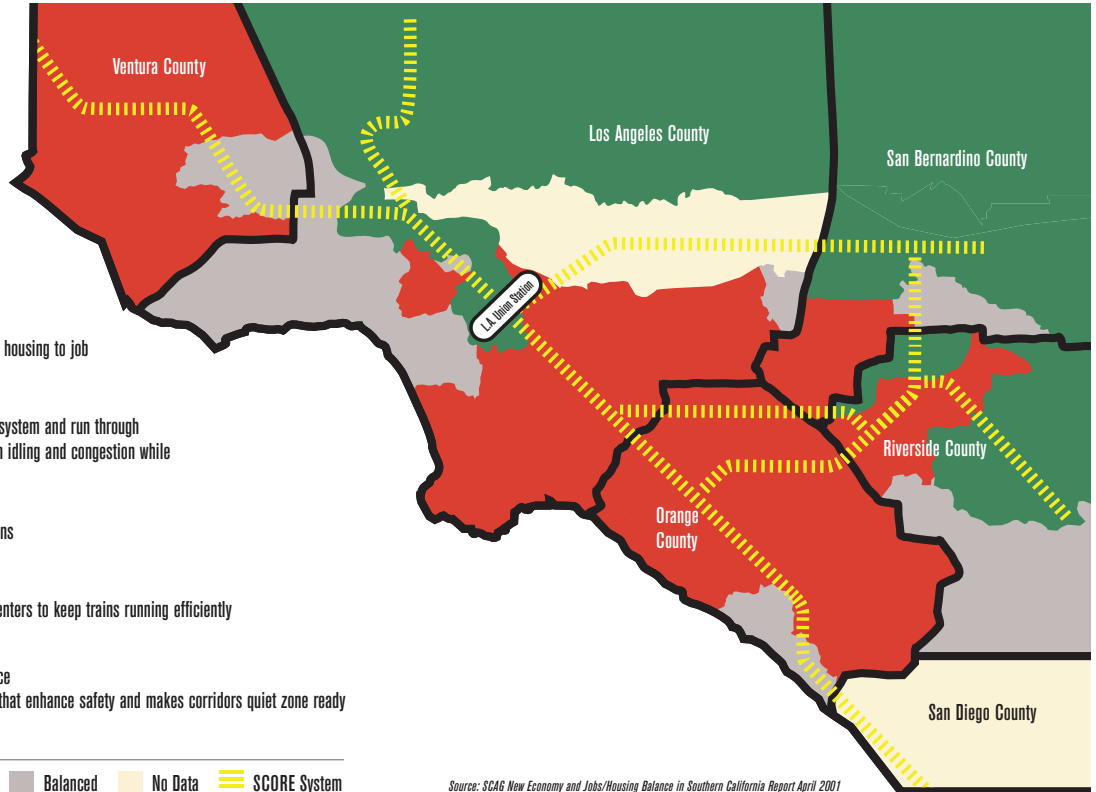
CALIFORNIA  
High-Speed Rail Authority



BNSF  
RAILWAY

SCORE Provides Southern California with:

-  Rail expansion that connects affordable housing to job throughout Southern California
-  Additional tracks added throughout the system and run through tracks at Union Station that reduce train idling and congestion while increasing efficiency and capacity
-  Consistent train service in both directions
-  Added and rehabilitated maintenance centers to keep trains running efficiently
-  Dedicated lanes to protect freight service  
Upgraded crossings across the system that enhance safety and makes corridors quiet zone ready



LEGEND ■ Housing Rich ■ Jobs Rich ■ Balanced ■ No Data  SCORE System

Source: SCAG New Economy and Jobs/Housing Balance in Southern California Report April 2001

# First round SCORE projects at a glance

**Antelope Valley Line:** Better train-to-train transfers at hub stations, operating efficiencies between Burbank and Los Angeles

**Inland Empire-Orange County Line:** Better train-to-train transfers at hub stations; expedited travel times along the line

**Orange County Line:** New signalization supports frequency and transfer improvements

**91/Perris Valley, IEOC and Riverside lines:** Better connectivity among the trains that travel to Riverside and improvements to the Riverside – Downtown Station

**San Bernardino and Ventura County lines:** 30-minute bi-directional service with some schedule variation during the peak period to meet peak hour demand and better train-to-train transfers at hub stations, improvements to the El Monte and Chatsworth stations

## Schedule Change

**Effective October 8, 2018**



TAKE THE TRAIN. METROLINK.



Metrolink will issue a fall schedule change on Monday, October 8, 2018.

With this change, we are adding another roundtrip between Los Angeles and Burbank Airport – South on the Ventura County Line. Smaller adjustments of up to five minutes will take place on certain trains and stations on the Ventura County, Orange County and Inland Empire-Orange County lines.

Additionally, Amtrak Pacific Surfliner trains will see significant changes of up to 45 minutes on some trains, as well as new train numbers. These changes are designed to accommodate expected reliability impacts as Amtrak rolls out Positive Train Control on these trains in San Diego County.

Full details of the schedule change are available at [metrolinktrains.com/schedulechange](http://metrolinktrains.com/schedulechange) on trains and at stations.



# GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT AT THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Back by popular demand, Metrolink is adding more weekend service to the Festival of Lights at the Riverside Mission Inn Hotel and Spa. Metrolink train service to the event will run on November 23, 24, 30 and December 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15 throughout Riverside, Los Angeles and Orange counties.

The special trains are timed to arrive in Riverside in the late afternoon on Fridays and Saturdays and depart Riverside after 8:00 p.m. Train times can be found at [metrolinktrains.com/FOL](http://metrolinktrains.com/FOL). The Riverside Transit Agency will provide free shuttles operating between the Riverside - Downtown Station and the Festival of Lights.

The Festival of Lights includes more than 400 animated figures including angels, elves and Dickens carolers, appearances by Santa Claus, the castle-like hotel illuminated with 5 million holiday lights, the world's largest man-made mistletoe, horse-drawn carriage rides, freshly fallen snow, elaborately decorated Christmas trees in the lobby and throughout the hotel and delectable holiday confections.

This is the third year that Metrolink will run special trains to the Festival of Lights to help Southern Californians get into the holiday spirit without worrying about traffic or parking.



Metrolink's special train service to the Festival of Lights is funded by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Board and by the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC).



## INTERNATIONAL SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE LOSS DAY



There is growing recognition that suicide is a significant public health problem, and many training programs and campaigns provide education about warning signs and how to help someone that may be suicidal. What many people may not know is that for every suicide death at least six people are affected by the complicated grief that follows, and according to estimates, 6 million Americans have become "suicide loss survivors" over the last 25 years.

On November 17th people around the world will gather to observe International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day, sharing stories of healing and hope in memory of their loved ones. This observance began in 1999 when Senator Harry Reid, who lost his father to suicide, introduced Senate Resolution 99 to establish National Survivors of Suicide Day. Over the years communities around the world have joined in the observance.

You are not alone. If you or someone you know has lost someone to suicide, whether recently or many years ago, reach out. Attend an American Foundation for Suicide Prevention event to connect with other survivors. To find support programs in your area, contact your local crisis center. If you or someone you know is in need of help, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

*Originally posted on [eachmindmatters.org](http://eachmindmatters.org).*

## STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE METROLINK MATTERS BLOG

The Metrolink Matters Blog is the online companion to Metrolink's official newsletter! Readers can find daily stories, travel ideas and service updates to stay in the know! Follow the blog at [metrolinkmatters.com](http://metrolinkmatters.com).



## PERSHING SQUARE HOLIDAY ICE RINK

**bai**

**HOLIDAY ICE RINK**

**PERSHING SQUARE**  
A WILLY BIETAK PRODUCTION

The Bai Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square returns for another season of holiday cheer in Downtown Los Angeles daily beginning November 15! This beloved recreational landmark will kick-off its 21st season with a festive series of community and special events.

The ice rink is located in Pershing Square at

532 S. Olive St., Los Angeles, CA 90013 and runs daily from Thursday, November 15 to Monday, January 21. Hours vary depending on the day and be found at [holidayicerinkdowntownla.com](http://holidayicerinkdowntownla.com).

By using Metrolink, you can save \$1 off skating sessions by showing your Metrolink ticket!



## UPCOMING SERVICE UPDATES

### VETERANS DAY

Sunday, November 11 (observed Monday, November 12): Regular Metrolink service and fares both days.

### THANKSGIVING DAY

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 22: Metrolink will offer a Sunday/Holiday schedule with \$10 Holiday Discount tickets. Regular weekday service resumes Friday, November 23.

### RAIL 2 RAIL® BLACKOUT:

Wednesday, November 21 – Sunday, November 25. Rail 2 Rail® resumes on Monday, November 26.

Please review Metrolink schedules at [metrolinktrains.com/schedules](http://metrolinktrains.com/schedules) when planning your holiday travels.



Metrolink will operate special round trip service to LA Rams football games at the L.A. Coliseum starting on Sunday from the 91/Perris Valley, San Bernardino, Orange County and Antelope Valley Lines. Special trains will arrive starting at 10 a.m. to allow fans time to transfer to the Metro Red or Purple Line to get to the football game. After the game, fans can take regular train service or the special trains home – which begin departing at 6:15 p.m. This is the second year Metrolink is providing special service to the professional football games. For more information, visit [metrolinktrains.com/football](http://metrolinktrains.com/football).