



Wednesday, July 02, 2008
20080702-0

In this issue:

- [CAFR Award](#)
- [Media Inquiry into Ridership and Gas Prices](#)
- [Media Inquiry into Bikes on Bus & Rail System](#)
- [Media Relations Issues News Release to Go Metro to The Beach this Summer](#)

CAFR Award

For the ninth consecutive year, our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) earned the Government Finance Officers Association's highest honor, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The award is for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007.

Media Inquiry into Ridership and Gas Prices

Today, National Public Radio's "News and Notes" program interviewed media relations staff on the impact high gasoline prices is having on our system ridership. Staff reported that public transit options, as well as carpool and vanpools, provide an extremely cost-effective alternative to solo driving in Los Angeles. The story aired live this morning. The Los Angeles Times also inquired today regarding ridership statistics on both Metro Rail and the Metro Bus system for a story they are working on to run over the weekend.

Media Inquiry into Bikes on Bus & Rail System

This afternoon, KFI Radio inquired about our plans to add bicycle capacity to the bus and rail system. Gateway Cities General Manager, Alex Clifford reported that we cannot add bike capacity to our buses by introducing a three bicycle rack like the Orange Line due to customer safety concerns. Bicyclists using a middle rack on local and other buses would have to enter into street traffic to retrieve the bike,

placing them at risk of being struck by auto traffic.

The Metro Orange Line employs three bike racks because it is a dedicated right-of-way, with no vehicles traveling alongside Orange Line buses. Removing seats on Metro Rail lines to accommodate additional bicyclists and removing peak hour bicycle restrictions is a concern to us. We are striving to achieve a delicate balance between encouraging bike use and accommodating the greater numbers of transit riders as a result of record gasoline prices. Our bicycle rules, however, specifically allow use of folding bikes on Metro Rail without peak hour restrictions, and inside buses when bus bike racks are full. The story is expected to run this weekend.

Media Relations Issues News Release to Go Metro to the Beach this Summer

Media Relations issued a [news release](#) today noting that with gas prices rising faster than summer temperatures, individuals can Go Metro to the beach this summer. The news release notes that Metro Bus and Rail and county shuttles can take people to some of the best beaches in the world. Metro Rapid Lines 704 and 720 and Rapid Express Line 920 all take you to Santa Monica Pier in less time, gliding through traffic lights that change to allow the Rapids signal priority.

Metro Rapid Line 704 from Union Station travels down Santa Monica Boulevard to Santa Monica Pier. Line 720 runs from Commerce Center in the City of Commerce to Santa Monica Pier. Rapid Express Line 920 travels down Wilshire Boulevard from the Wilshire/Vermont Metro Red and Purple Line Station to Santa Monica Pier, making only a few stops. Due to limited stops, travel times for the Rapid Express lines are up to 15 percent faster than traditional Metro Rapid service, which itself can be 25 percent faster than traditional service.

In the San Fernando Valley, the Topanga Canyon Summer Beach Bus meets the Metro Orange Line at Warner Center in Woodland Hills and carries passengers to Topanga State Beach, Will Rogers State Beach and Santa Monica State Beach. The special summer shuttle runs Monday through Saturday through September 1, 2008 with three trips a day in each direction.

[Metro.net Home](#) | [Press Room](#) | [Projects & Programs](#) | [Meeting Agendas](#) | [Riding Metro](#) | [Metro Library](#)

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
1 Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012-2952
Phone: 213-922-6888
Fax: 213-922-7447
