



MTA to Offer Patrons Free Rides on Christmas and New Year's Eves

By GARY WOSK

(Dec. 14) For the sixth consecutive year, the MTA will offer free bus and train rides on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Patrons may ride free from 9 p.m. until closing on Metro Rail and until 5 a.m. on Christmas Day and New Year's Day on the Metro Bus system.

Metro Rail and the Metro Bus system will operate on a Sunday schedule Christmas Day and New Year's Day, both of which fall on Monday this year.

KLVE (107.5 FM), La Nueva (101.9 FM) and KTNQ (1020 AM) - among Los Angeles' top-rated Spanish language radio stations - are co-sponsors of this year's free rides. The stations will begin airing

announcements each hour beginning Friday, Dec. 15.

The free rides also will be publicized on MTA buses and on Metro Rail ticket vending machines.

"Members of the MTA Board decided to introduce this public service program because they were very concerned about the personal safety of people who will be out and about celebrating the holidays," said Warren Morse, deputy executive officer, Marketing and Customer Relations. "Hopefully, many will be persuaded to leave their car at home and instead use mass transit, lessening the likelihood of accidents, unwanted injuries and even fatalities."

For complete routes and schedule information, the public can call 1-800-COMMUTE or visit the MTA's website, which includes a customized trip planner, at www.mta.net.

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