

Home Show Attendees React to New Metro Gold Line

By RICH MORALLO

(Sept. 11, 2003) A month after the Metro Gold Line opening, MTA volunteers staffing an information table during a home show at the Pasadena Convention Center, Aug. 22-24, learned how the public is reacting to the new rail line.

"A security guard who generally drives his car finds that he can now take the Gold Line and ride from Compton to Pasadena," said Tom Langer, one of 30 staff members who distributed Metro transit and safety information at the home show.

Langer also described how other visitors to the MTA table shared their Metro Rail experiences. They included a Pasadena family making regular trips to Los Angeles without the family car, a young couple learning how to travel to Long Beach, and a professional worker becoming a regular rail commuter to his downtown Los Angeles job.

Most of the MTA home show volunteers, recruited and organized by Yolanda Rosales, had worked crowd control or events during the July 26-27 Gold Line opening.

At the home show they answered bus and train questions, and distributed safety coloring books and crayons throughout the three days of the event, which was attended by 25,000 residents and families.

Sudhir Agrawal, who worked all three days at the Metro booth, confirmed that the the most requested MTA pamphlet was the Metro Gold Line train schedule.

"All in all, it was an eye-opening experience for me to promote our organization and get the feedback from the public on how well we are doing," said Langer.

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Carson Division 18 Manager Cindy Karpman helps a visitor at the MTA table.