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Commuters Combine Bikes and Metro on 'Bike to Work Day'

By KIM SIM

(May 21, 2004) Plenty of commuters turned "Bike to Work Day" into "Bike and Ride to Work Day," combining the bicycle with Metro to get to and from work, May 20.

While some were new to the concept of bicycling and riding Metro, others has been doing it for years. Whatever the case, commuters agreed it beat sitting in traffic.

Sarah Zadok, accounts supervisor for Metro Commute Services, has observed Bike to Work Day since its inception.

"I just saw so many people riding their bikes," Zadok said. "You had to be careful driving because they were going in and out on the streets, all around downtown."

Bike to Work Day encourages people to forgo private cars for a day and try alternative forms of transportation, such as the bicycle. But for those too far from their intended destination to simply bike there, adding Metro Buses and Metro Rail is an option.



PHOTO: LIZ ARMIJO-HOLBROOK

San Gabriel Valley General Manager Jack Gabig is ready to board a Line 268 Metro Bus for his afternoon commute on Bike to Work Day. In the morning, Gabig rode the six miles from his home in San Gabriel to the sector office in El Monte in just 25 minutes. Although he usually drives to work, Gabig enjoyed the bike ride and says he "may make it a habit."

PHOTO: KIM SIM

"So much more fun than sitting in my car!"



Eric Richardson regularly rides from a Metro Gold Line station to his workplace at Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Jumped at the opportunity

When the Metro Gold Line opened last summer, Eric Richardson jumped at the opportunity to stop driving to work.

Each day, Richardson takes the Metro Red Line to the Gold Line, before embarking on a 30-minute bike ride to his workplace at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in La Cañada Flintridge.

Richardson, a regular bike-and-rail commuter, described his routine as "so much more fun than sitting in my car."

On the Red Line, heading to Union Station, Noe Huerta holds tightly onto his Trek bicycle. The monthly pass holder has been combining the bicycle and Metro to get to his workplace in Pasadena for six years.

"It's a hassle to drive a car," said Huerta, who takes three rail lines each morning — the Metro Blue Line, Red Line and Gold Line — before bicycling to work.

The word was 'free'

For bike-and-rail first-timers Chris Cabacungan and Roger Chou, interest in Bike to Work Day was spurred primarily by the word "free": all bicyclists got to ride Metro free for the day.

Instead of driving to work as they usually do, the two decided to "break the boredom of commute" by participating in Bike to Work, Cabacungan said.

Cabacungan and Chou, who work at an office building on Figueroa Street, biked seven miles to the Sierra Madre Villa station on the Gold Line. They then took the Gold Line to Union Station, where they rode the Red Line to 7th and Metro.

Chou enjoyed the change of pace. "It was a good workout," he said.

PHOTO: KIM SIM



Bike-and-rail first-timers Chris Cabacungan and Roger Chou reach their destination on the Metro Red Line.