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300 Seniors Attend Workshops in Downey and Pasadena

By DAVID HERSHENSON

(July 2, 2004) Some 300 senior citizens participated in the latest round of "Seniors on the Move" workshops in Downey and Pasadena.

The program is co-sponsored by Metro, the LA County Commisison on Aging and local transit agencies, and are scheduled in each of the county supervisors' districts.

At the Downey Senior Center, June 25, more than 100 participants were able to visit exhibit tables with information on various forms of transit, including Metrolink and the Downey Link Transit system, in addition to Metro.

Seniors also attend a workshop on how to plan trips and use public transit, and took a short bus ride to the Norwalk Metro Green Line Station and Norwalk Metrolink Station. Each also received a free senior bus pass for the month of July.

Many of the approximately 200 seniors who participated in the program at the Pasadena Senior Center also rode the Metro Gold Line for the first time. It was a short trip from Memorial Park Station to Allen Avenue Station, but all of the seniors were impressed with the cleanliness and smooth ride.

Many indicated they would use the Gold Line to visit downtown Los Angeles and Chinatown.

Metro staff involved in planning and staffing the Downey seniors



Metro's Ellen Blackman, center, staffs a booth at the Seniors on the Move program presentation in Pasadena.



Transportation Planning Manager Ellen Blackman joins Gateway Cities DAC members Maria Avila and Norma Curasco and Governance Councilmember Wally Shidler to distribute Metro information to Downey seniors.



event included Transportation Planning Manager Ellen Blackman, Communications Manager Vanessa Smith, Community Relations Manager David Hershenson and Transportation Operations Supervisor Larry Haynes.

A group of seniors experiments with the ticket vending machine at Pasadena's Memorial Park Metro Gold Line station.

Gateway Cities Division Advisory Committee (DAC) members Maria Avila and Norma Curasco performed double duty by passing out literature and answering questions at the exhibit table, and drove the Metro Buses used for the bus tour.

Gateway Cities Governance Councilman Wally Shidler, a senior and lifelong bus advocate, also assisted at the exhibit table and gave the "How to Ride Metro" presentation to the group.

-- Chip Hazen contributed to this article.

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