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Metro System Attracting Growing Numbers of Auto Drivers

By ED SCANNELL

(Oct. 8, 2004) More LA County residents who could drive or have access to an automobile are instead commuting by Metro.

A recent survey shows that the number of Metro riders who have a vehicle available for their commute rose from 22 percent in Fall 2002 to 29 percent in Spring 2004.

"As congestion continues to grow in Los Angeles County the Metro System is becoming an increasingly attractive way to get around," said Board Chairman Frank Roberts.

Approximately 15,000 passengers completed written questionnaires for the most recent of four surveys, which were conducted between Fall 2002 and Spring 2004.

The surveys showed that 26 percent of Metro Bus passengers have access to a vehicle, up from 21 percent. A total of 49 percent of Metro Rail riders now have access to a vehicle, up from 39 percent.

Noting that, of all LA County residents 90 percent now have access to a vehicle, Deputy CEO John Catoe said, "Combined with our passenger surveys, the results tell us we're doing a better job of capturing people who in the past would have spent their commute time behind the wheel."

The surveys were conducted on a random basis on all four Metro Rail lines, on all agency-operated Metro Bus lines and on three bus lines operated under contract to Metro.