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Actor Corbin Bernsen Seeks Metro's Help with Carpool Movie

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Dec. 9, 2004) The thought first came to film and TV star Corbin Bernsen while he and a business partner were traveling in the HOV lane and zooming past stalled traffic on the San Diego Freeway.

Later, he noticed a Metro poster of four female bowlers in a red convertible with the tag line: Friends don't let friends drive alone.

An idea was born: Why not a movie about a guy who carools?

And, that's what brought Bernsen to Metro Headquarters on Wednesday. He and producer Tim Gray met with Chief Communications Officer Matt Raymond and members of his staff to seek Metro's help.



Actor Corbin Bernsen

PHOTOS: BILL HEARD



Actor Corbin Bernsen, right, discusses ideas for jointly promoting his new movie and carpooling in LA County with Metro Chief Communications Officer Matt Raymond and his staff.

Promoting carpooling

"They asked us to give them realistic information about how carools are formed as background for their movie," says Raymond. "And, since we have access to people who carpool, we discussed ways to cooperate on the movie and to promote carpooling."

The movie, which began production in November, will feature a number of TV soap opera stars, including Anthony Geary, who plays Luke on "General Hospital," and Jeanne Cooper, the long-time star of

"The Young and The Restless" – who also is Bernsen's mother.

Titled "Carpool Guy," the film will be the story of an ambitious young advertising agency executive who moves with his wife to a home in the far suburbs of Los Angeles County, Bernsen says.

The ad man soon discovers that his long, difficult commute is a killer, interfering with both his work life and home life. After trying some creative ways to use the HOV lane, he starts a carpool.

'Life becomes better'

"In the end," says Bernsen, "he

finds that by carpooling and adding a couple of hours to his day, his life actually becomes better."

"Carpool Guy," which will be the actor's directorial debut, is expected to be in general theater release by early fall 2005.

"It's good to see that Hollywood is picking up on carpooling as a better way for people to commute," says Raymond. "A film like 'Carpool Guy' could help us reinforce that message."



Metro's Ed Scannell, left, and Gricel Sanchez listen as Corbin Bernsen describes his "Carpool Guy" movie project.