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Metro Red Line Ridership Increased in First Quarter, 2005

(April 12, 2005) Metro Red Line ridership increased noticeable in the first three months of 2005 when patronage jumped to almost 8.9 million – 11.8 percent over the same period in 2004.

The Metro Green Line saw a hike of 7.5 percent in ridership for the quarter, while the Metro Blue Line increased 3 percent over the period one year ago.

Ridership on the Metro Gold Line was down 3.6 percent. Metro Bus ridership was essentially flat compared with the 2004 figures.

Officials cited rising gas prices as a factor in ridership gains, but also credited Metro's expansion of service, more public use of the Internet Trip Planner and an increase in employer pass sales, among others.

The rise in gas prices may have affected rail ridership more than bus ridership, officials believe. Trips taken on rail, on average, tend to be longer than bus trips. The longer the trip, the greater the impact of gas prices.

Heavy rains during the first three months of the year may have held down bus ridership, while a mudslide that blocked part of the Metro Gold Line tracks for several days affected service and discouraged riders.