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Board Chairman Frank Roberts, CEO Roger Snoble and *Times in Education* Central Zone Manager Denise Lopez, at left, and Metro Community Relations Manager Marta Mack, at right, flank elementary and middle school winners of the "On the Move" art and essay contest at award presentation May 3 at the Los Angeles Times.



Photos by Ted Roberts/Los Angeles Times

Reading, Writing and Transportation!

- Metro and L.A. Times are "On the Move" in county classrooms.
- [Essays](#): Winning entries from the "Buses, Trains and Carpool Lanes" essay contest.
- [Showcase](#): Winning entries from the "Buses, Trains and Carpool Lanes" art contest.

By GAYLE ANDERSON

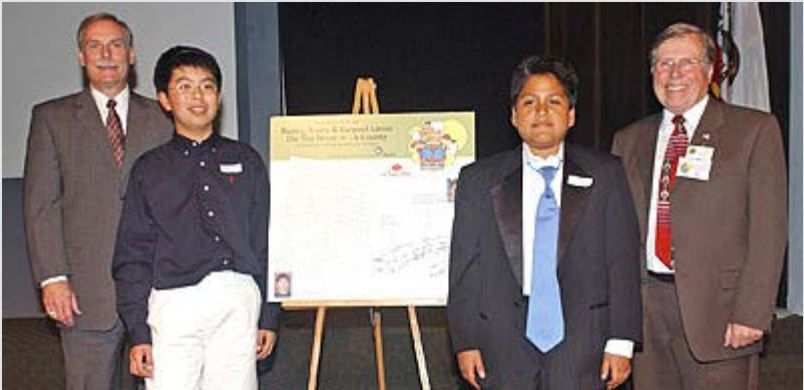
(May 24, 2005) – As the second year of an innovative education program underway at Los Angeles County schools drew to a close, CEO Roger Snoble and Board Chairman Frank Roberts were on the move, handing out awards at a May ceremony held in the Harry Chandler Auditorium of the Los Angeles Times. And, the honors went to 21 elementary and middle school students whose winning essays and artwork earned them top honors in the "Buses, Trains & Carpool Lanes" art and essay contest.

The awards signaled the completion of a six-month education outreach program sponsored by Metro. Appropriately named "On the Move," the program is a transportation curriculum offered free of charge to Los Angeles County schools, grades 4 to 8, in partnership with the Los Angeles Times in Education Program.

Now in its second year, "On the Move" served some 75,000 students in Los Angeles County. Participation increased 12 percent over last year, and 1,240 teachers used the curriculum in 1,860 classrooms, reported project coordinator Marta Mack.

Vice-

chairman
Frank
Roberts,
right, and
CEO Roger
Snoble
with
grand-
prize
winners
Stanley
Yuan
center left,
and Alexes
Macedo.



"Bus, Trains and Carpool Lanes"

Stanley Yuan, a seventh-grader at Dana Middle School and the 2005 grand-prize winner for the "Buses, Trains and Carpool Lanes" essay contest, made the case for using public transportation:

"Most people say that the stress is too immense when they are driving in intense traffic. Every driver has to concentrate on the traffic. Stress can be caused when a driver is focusing too much on driving, which can beget dizziness and tiredness. However, if a person takes the bus, train, or a carpool group, they don't have to worry about driving."

Sorenson Elementary School fifth-grader Alexis Macedo won the art contest with an architectural-style line drawing that showed the Metro Blue Line bound for Long Beach sailing through the traffic of a cityscape.

Showcase - Art contest winners

click on images below to view large format and use your <Back button to return to article

4th Grade

First Place



by Osmar Molina

Second Place



by Sasha Hurtado

Third Place



by Jiehong Chen

Honorable Mention



by Hui Qi Fan

Honorable Mention



by Lan JingZhang

Honorable Mention



by Iad Yee

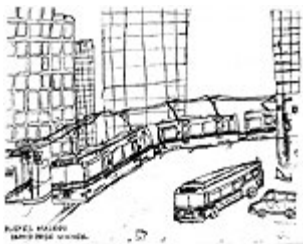
5th Grade

First Place

GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Second Place

Third Place



by Alexes Macedo



by Daunte Grooms



by Jesse Gillette

Honorable Mention



by Joseph LeGarreta

Honorable Mention



by Jasmine Sanchez

The winning essay and drawing, along with the photo and name of the grand prize winners, were published in a half-page ad in the May 3 edition of the Los Angeles Times.

Chairman Roberts commended the students prior to handing out the awards. "Thank you for your scholarship, creativity and interest in learning about how Metro works," he said, and encouraged the students to consider a career in transportation.

The program gives Metro an innovative way to deliver mobility, transit safety and anti-graffitti messages," said CEO Roger Snoble.

Noting the program as a great success in reaching "our youngest prospective transit users," CEO Snoble announced that Metro will renew the contract with Times in Education to sponsor "On the Move" for the next school year.

With Metro as the curriculum and the Los Angeles Times newspaper as the textbook, students in classrooms throughout Los Angeles County took part in spirited discussions on public transportation, debating such issues as funding, traffic snarls, and environmental and social concerns.

Showcase - Essay contest winners

First Place

Second Place

Third Place

7th Grade

GRAND PRIZE WINNER
[Why Should People Take Buses, Trains, or Carpool Lanes](#)

by Stanley Yuan

[The Advantages of Buses, Trains, and Carpool Lanes](#)
by Deja Soleil Neblina

[Not only the Car...](#)
by Ruodi Duan

8th Grade

[Traffic and Transportation](#)
by Ashley Romero

[What a Waste](#)
by Tiffany Chang

[Buses and Carpools](#)
by Jeancarlo Gonzalez

"On the Move" is one of several education programs offered by Times in Education and the first in Los Angeles County to focus on transportation issues. The program was launched in October 2003 with

teacher recruitment ads in the Los Angeles Times and brochures and flyers distributed to Los Angeles County elementary and middle schools.

On the Metro side, the project was coordinated by Marta Mack, Community Relations Manager. Community Relations staff, led by Deputy Executive Officer Lynda Bybee, judged the essays submitted by sixth through eighth grade students. The art entries were judged by Metro Art's Alan Nakagawa, senior public arts officer, who reviewed and selected the winning art submissions from fourth and fifth grade students.

"It's important to be aware and understand the pivotal role transportation plays in our everyday life," Snoble told the students prior to handing out the awards. "We *can* ride together. In a car, we miss out on the joy of freedom that comes with traveling with people."

Learning their lessons

The program also gave Metro an innovative way to deliver the anti-graffitti, anti-vandalism and safety education messages.

With Metro as the curriculum and the Los Angeles Times newspaper as the textbook, students in classrooms throughout Los Angeles County took part in spirited discussions on public transportation, debating such issues as funding, traffic snarls, and environmental and social concerns.

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GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Stanley Yuan
Dana Middle School
7th grade

Why Should People Take Buses, Trains, or Carpool Lanes?

There are many reasons why buses, trains, and carpool lanes can decrease traffic. With more people boarding buses and trains and doing carpool to work, there will be less cars on the freeways.

The first reason why people should take buses, trains, and carpool for transportation is to use less money. A typical worker who drives around seventy miles per day can use up to 15 gallons of gasoline in a week. With the gasoline prices up these days, 15 gallons can cost about \$35. A month of work can cost around \$150 and a year of gasoline can cost up to \$1800! However, if one takes a bus or train or be part of a carpool group, one could save a lot of money. A round trip on a Metro bus costs no more than \$3. That would equal \$21 a week, \$84 per month, and about \$1008 a year! One would save up to almost \$700 per year. That could make a drastic change in a person's lifestyle. A train, such as the Metro Link, has a fare of about four dollars for a round trip. Carpool lanes are used so people who go to the same workplace can all ride in one car, instead of several. They could also drive in the carpool lane, which is usually faster than the regular lanes. That would save a lot of time for people who attend carpool groups.

Another reason why people should travel on buses, trains, and carpool lanes is that they lessen stress. Most people say that the stress is too immense when they are driving in intense traffic. Every driver has to concentrate on the traffic. Stress can be caused when a driver is focusing too much on driving, which can beget dizziness and tiredness. However, if a person takes the bus, train, or a carpool group, they don't have to worry about driving, in a bus, train, or carpool, all one has to do is to sit down on a seat and relax. Riding trains, buses, and carpool is a good way to relieve stress.

The last reason why people who are trapped in heavy traffic should ride buses, trains, and carpool is for less pollution. Why should drivers be concerned about the environment? Well, think about it. What is the point of destroying the environment where everybody dwells in? For example, if thirty car drivers all took a Metro bus to

work, that would be thirty cars' less of pollution. True, the bus produces pollution. However, one bus' pollution definitely is not the equivalent of thirty car's worth of pollution.

These are just some reasons why buses, trains, and carpool lanes can diminish traffic. I think that people who can take buses, trains, and carpool lanes should take them. Everybody should be grateful for the convenience of buses, trains, and carpool lanes. And I'm sure that everybody will soon feel indebted to the wonderful city of Los Angeles for its consideration.

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Deja Soleil Neblina
Fremont Middle School
7th Grade

The Advantages of Buses, Trains, and Carpool Lanes

When you think of L.A. County in terms of traffic, you automatically think of rush hour, or backed up freeways. You also notice that there are extremely long lines of cars in front of you, yet there are only one or two people per vehicle. It's ridiculous how many lanes are wasted on almost empty cars...but it's reality! However, there are some traffic innovations made to reduce car problems in Los Angeles County such as buses, trains and carpool lanes. Each have their own individual purposes for cutting down on traffic problems. Whether it's buses and trains (that are capable of long and short destinations), or carpool lanes (which allow fully occupied vehicles to drive smoothly through the freeway), they do contribute to slowing down traffic in some ways. Here are some ways that each innovation helps in their own special way.

Take buses for example; they (most of the time) are able to carry forty to sixty people per stop. If it were a school bus, its capacity would be equivalent to two whole classrooms full of children. That's almost the same as about forty cars at the least! Also, buses are fully competent for driving within the city, or on the freeway.

Although trains run on tracks, not through the freeway like buses, they are capable of traveling through cities and even states! Since trains have several sections, one segment can carry almost the same number of passengers as buses. Not only are trains space-efficient, but also they reduce traffic in the sense that they are smart alternative for driving long distances on the freeway. Plus, sitting back and relaxing while the conductor drives, is a lot better than trying to stay awake on the road while driving.

The last traffic improvement (for the freeway) is carpool lanes. They are designed to help two or more people, in one vehicle, to make their way through the freeway at ease. The only reason why carpool lanes aren't backed up is because, since most of the cars have one person per vehicle, the people whose car's are full, can actually "drive" on the freeway instead of stopping and going every ten seconds.

I think a great way for people to start using these transportation innovations is getting them to see the statistics on traffic in Los Angeles County, and showing them the different ways, such as buses, trains and carpool lanes, they can contribute to cutting down on traffic. It would really make everyone's life easier, as well as their own. By taking buses and trains, people could be reaching their destination faster and with less hassle. Also, if someone is driving to a place with someone else in separate cars, why not go together? It saves gas, and cuts down on traffic. Although some may doubt that doing these little things can't help, they don't realize that if everyone did it, it would make a huge difference on traffic in L.A. County.

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Ruodi Duan

Dana Middle School
7th Grade

Not only the Car...

In the dictionary, the word *car* is defined as *any vehicle on wheels, used for transportation*. There is more meaning to that word other than that it shapes our lifestyle into a convenient theme park. The car, which owning one now stand as a symbol of success in some countries, is partly responsible for the hospitalization of 40,000 children per year in California alone. Car waste eventually turns into ozone, or smog.

It's probably not possible to get rid of pollution completely, but it is possible to reduce the amount dramatically by realizing driving a private car isn't the only way to reach a destination. Perhaps some employee drives his own car to work 20 miles a day at the rate of 5 days per week and the gasoline price is \$2.00 every gallon. That worker's car also uses 25 miles for every gallon. Then it can be figured the cost roundtrip would be \$3.20 and per week \$16.00. If the employee worked 4 weeks a month, the monthly costs would be \$64.

Spending \$64 isn't the only way; you can purchase a monthly metro bus or railway pass for only \$52. Easily, you can save \$12. That amount may do with a rather nice luncheon at a restaurant or a new shirt. Most importantly, it's not the money you save; you also lessened the amount of ozone into the air. The less polluted air, the less materials will be there to trigger asthma attacks or other life-threatening situations. Making this simple decision can save many children from suffering and pain.

Carpool lanes can save time is common knowledge, but it can also provide some entertainment to ease the loneliness of being on the road alone. Now it's possible to play cards or swap stories with fellow carpoolers while on the freeway. Carpooling is not only fast and efficient, like buses and trains, it can reduce ozone pollution.

AQI (Air Quality Index) is the method used for reporting daily air quality. The scale ranges from 0 to 500 while below 50 is good and over 300 is considered hazardous. In the USA, the general standard is 100, in which sensitive people may experience mild effects. The AQI for Downtown L.A. occasionally reaches above the standard. Using other than private cars to get around will help in reaching below the standard. You can take advantage of rideshare programs at work or around Los Angeles. If everyone worked together in harmony with nature, we may save our beautiful planet. It is not too late!

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Ashley Romero
Fremont Middle School
8th grade

Traffic and Transportation

Los Angeles County is a special region with specific needs unlike any other area in the United States. The fact that the large population commutes from one part of the city to another is often challenging. This challenge consumes a part of our lives and affects our daily planning and traveling. For these reasons, buses, trains and car pool lanes have been developed to alleviate commuting obstacles.

Helping drivers traveling conditions takes a variety of approaches. First, to accomplish the solution one must understand the problem. Simply explained, the freeway system is similar to a person having a heart attack. Many of our freeways are congested and stop moving. This stoppage obviously causes a back up and figurative death of the freeway system.

Fortunately, a few measures have been implemented to ease driver's travels and avoid freeway gridlocks on congested streets. Drivers and their passengers choose to use the car pool lanes. These lanes improve the flow of traffic. This is an important advantage to the driver since these lanes typically have less congestion and are faster. Also, trains and buses have the advantage of being cost effective and generally people can get to their destination more quickly than surface streets or freeways.

Buses, trains and car pool lanes have a huge impact on reducing congestion on our highways. They are also great ways for commuters to save on money and time and enjoy a less stressful commute. However, the drivers must be educated on these choices in order for them to be successful. It is important for drivers to understand their options and see how easy and practical they are.

Perhaps people can leave their cars at home by offering incentives. For example, by using one of the three alternatives for 50% of their travels. Yearly car registrations can be waived on their cars. Another is to use miles and offer a tax deduction. Also, drivers can accumulate gas dollars to match their miles using alternatives and use them on their cars later.

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Tiffany Chang
Dana Middle School
8th grade

What a Waste

Everyone knows that pollution is bad for the environment and they don't like it. They also know or should know that it affects our health, safety and "general quality of life." However, not everyone seems to know how pollution is bad.

If people want to reduce the chance of getting sick and save the environment, why not actually do it? Both local and global pollution would dramatically improve if each person who owns or drives a car drives 30% less. If everyone cooperated, traffic in cities would be reduced over the next 3 to 5 years.

Safety always comes first. Long distance driving increases the risk of an accident. In most cases, this would result in property damage and can leave the driver and passengers crippled or dead. Due to weather conditions and unsafe drivers, even the most cautious ones could end up being hurt.

Money is a big issue when it comes to cars. According to the Canadian Automobile Association, the cost of operating a car averages about 36 cents per kilometer including the fuel, insurance, and maintenance. At \$1.50 a gallon, the cost is \$600 million per year. If taking a bus, the transportation could vary between 50 cents to a dollar. By taking a public transit, \$4,300 would be saved per year. Depending on distance, train fares could cost between 5 to 15 dollars. There are no monthly car payments with trains or buses.

Saving room is another case. Most cars driven on the highway are single occupants. A full bus replaces 20 to 40 single-occupant cars on the road. The train can also replace that many people per car. Not everyone can use the car pool lanes when driving to work. If a car must be driven, it should have at least 2 or more people.

Helping the environment is also another important issue that not everyone is involved with. According to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs, taking the transit rather than driving 50 kilometers would diminish the annual emanation of exhausts significantly.

Last but not least, everyone's health is important. If someone wanted to take the bus

or the train, she or he would walk instead of drive there. This would give them their daily exercise and they wouldn't waste time. No one would need two cars, if they took the bus or the train.

If everyone drove cars less frequently, the world would be a better place. Everyone says the word "if before "the world would be a better place." Sometime soon, everyone should say, "Everyone cooperated and it made the world a better place."

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Jeancarlo Gonzalez
Fremont Middle School
8th grade

Buses and Carpools

Have you ever thought of the advantages that we would have if we rode a bus or train to our schools and businesses? There would be less traffic and less pollution. You know how frustrating it is to be stuck in the middle of all the cars with no way out. I will try to persuade you to get in a bus or train. Here are some ideas you might want to think about.

To begin with, I think the reduction of traffic would be very visible. We always try to get up extra early so we don't get caught up in traffic. But we always seem to get in the same spot every day. If we rode one of these buses or trains to wherever we want, it might be faster. The people won't have to worry about being late to their jobs, because the bus driver or the train conductor would have some sort of schedule. What do you think so far?

Also, can you guys think about this for a minute? How much money do you spend each week on gasoline? Well if you ride a bus or train, you won't have to worry about wasting your money each week. You may, but no more than one dollar-fifty. Think of all the neat stuff you can buy when you don't have to buy gasoline. Here is another thing to think about.

Third, we are polluting our earth too much. I think that less of our cars and vans will create less smoke, which means less harm to the atmosphere. There would be less of the black thick smoke, which is what damages our earth. I really do want to live a good healthy life. Don't you? This is making our world time period shorter. If we keep this up we won't be able to end up the two thousands!

Next, I think the prices should be low. I think that a child ages nine and below should enter the bus or train free, and only adults pay. I think it should be like this because a mother or father sometimes walks their children to school and it wouldn't be fair if their children have to pay. I also think that if the customer rides the bus or train for half the month they should get the other half free by showing their membership card.

To conclude, we need to ride buses and trains so we can reduce traffic, to save money, and to save our earth and to get to our jobs and schools for a cheap price. I really want to save my world so it can last for many generations and other people can enjoy it too. You save money and buy a lot of things. What do you think? You should try it!

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