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## Mayor and Board Members Take Metro Gold Line to Work to Demonstrate Ease of Public Transportation

- Numerous media outlets ride along on the Metro Gold Line as Mayor shows Angelinos how to save money by taking public transportation to work. Mayor Villaraigosa was joined by fellow Board members Gloria Molina, John Fasana, Pam O'Connor, Richard Katz, Bernard Parks, and David Fleming as well as CEO Roger Snoble and Deputy CEO John Catoe.

(Aug. 25, 2005) On the day of the Board of Directors meeting, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and several board members took the Metro Gold Line to work.

The group boarded the Metro Gold Line train at the Southwest Museum Station near the mayor's Mount Washington home and exited at Union Station, where Mayor Villaraigosa told waiting news crews and reporters that the average commuter can save hard-earned money by using public transportation.

"I'm here to urge all Angelinos to consider taking transit to work," even if it's just a couple of times a week," said the Mayor. "You would not only be doing your part to reduce traffic, you would also save some your hard-earned money."

Over the past few weeks, gasoline prices have soared to record highs and according to the Automobile Club of Southern California, the average price for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline in Los Angeles County has reached \$2.80 a gallon. Prices are expected to continue to rise with some experts predicting consumers paying \$3 a gallon by Labor Day.

Metro can help mitigate the effects of increased gasoline prices by offering commuters cost-effective public transportation alternatives by way of its Metro Bus and Metro Rail systems serving Los Angeles City, County and beyond, the Mayor noted.

The typical fare for riders of the Metro system is just \$1.25 one-way and is even lower with the purchase of a weekly, biweekly or monthly pass, the use of special discount tokens or the best transportation bargain in town, the Metro \$3 day pass that entitles riders unlimited rides on all Metro Bus and Rail systems.

Driving solo in their automobiles, commuters today spend \$24 a day to operate that vehicle.

People in a car or van pool spend \$3.38 a day for their commute, a savings of \$20.62 and individuals using Metro's public transportation system spend just \$3 a day, saving \$21 over the solo driver in his or her automobile.

In a month, public transit users save \$454 with the purchase of a \$52 monthly Metro pass verses the solo driver who ends up spending \$506

a month to operate their vehicle.

In a year's time, this can add up to a savings of nearly \$5,500 (\$5,451) for the public transit user verses that same individual driving alone. \*

Daily Los Angeles county commuters who switch from solo driving to public transportation, carpools or van pools can save over \$5,000 a year in commuting costs.

Mayor Villaraigosa pledged to ride the Metro Gold Line and the bus to work whenever he can, urging residents to "ride with the mayor."

"it's a great ride, it's a bargain and it's a great opportunity to meet people and talk to them and not suffer the road rage your read about every single day," said the Mayor.

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\* Cost projections are based on the following assumptions: Number of commute workdays per month: 21; Average daily commute: 30 minutes; Price of gasoline: \$2.80 per gallon; Average vehicle MPG: 21; Parking: \$65; Cost for repairs, registration, maintenance and taxes: \$.13 per mile; Cost for financing insurance and depreciation: \$.44 per mile.