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Director of Metro Commute Services David Sutton demonstrates how to save gas by vanpooling at media event held to promote Rideshare Week.



Photo by Casey Barnes/Van Pool Services, Inc.

## Metro Moves into High Gear for Rideshare Week, Oct. 3-7

- Business participation in rideshare programs up 68%

By JOSÉ UBALDO

(Sept. 30, 2005) October 3 through 7 is Rideshare Week and Metro is challenging commuters and others to share a ride and save money on gas while easing traffic and air pollution.

Carpooling or taking public transit once a week, the agency says, will save the average commuter 125 gallons of gas a year.

Metro also is urging Southland commuters to participate in the radio campaign, "Pick a Day, Any Day", and join a carpool, or vanpool, take the bus or train, walk, ride a bicycle or telecommute.

"There has never been a better time than now to start sharing the ride," said David Sutton, Director of Metro Commute Services. "Let's share the ride and show the nation that Southern Californians are serious about helping out!"

Participation in Metro Rideshare programs grows every year. More than 1,000 worksites with 250 or more employees participate in Metro Commute Service programs, representing a 68 percent increase within the last three years.

## Business participation

An additional 1,200 businesses with fewer than 250 employees also participate in these programs.

Metro's Rideshare programs are not limited to employers. On Oct. 6, Metro and UCLA will announce the debut of the UCLA Go! Metro Pass program for UCLA students and employees.

The new Go Metro Pass will give UCLA students the convenience of an unlimited Metro Bus and Metro Rail pass at significantly reduced fares. UCLA is subsidizing half off the cost of this program to make it affordable.

Metro School Pool is a service offering free, voluntary and confidential matching service to parents interested in organizing school carpools.

The program is open to students in all participating public and private elementary, middle and high schools in Los Angeles County. Parents share the task of driving students to and from school.