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**Bus, Rail Boardings Increase 6.85% over September, 2004**

(Oct. 14, 2005) Metro Bus and Metro Rail ridership in September declined somewhat from August boardings, but overall, ridership was up 6.85 percent over September, 2004.

Metro recorded 38.6 million systemwide boardings in September, versus 36.15 million a year ago.

The statistics show 32.15 million boardings on directly-operated Metro Buses in September and 6.5 million Metro Rail boardings.

The systemwide September boardings were 6.4 percent higher than Metro had anticipated.

From August to September, 2005, bus boardings were down 1.1 percent and rail boardings dropped 5.9 percent.

Despite the month-to-month decline, however, Metro Bus boardings still were 6.3 percent higher than expected, while Metro Rail boardings were up 6.6 percent over anticipated levels.