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Mayor Urges Using Transit to See Hollywood Christmas Parade

• Villaraigosa will be Grand Marshall – a parade first

By KIM UPTON

For the first time in the history of the Hollywood Christmas Parade, an elected official – Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa – will be Grand Marshall, and the mayor is urging people to ride Metro to the Nov. 27 event.

A million people are expected to jam the streets for this year's parade to see stars of the popular television shows "Lost," "CSI: Miami," "The West Wing," "Numb3rs" and "The Shield," not to mention bands, horses and Santa Claus.

That's a major snarl, even by traffic-soaked Los Angeles standards. To help, parade officials and Metro have assembled a list of ways to see this year's parade – the 74th – the easy way.

"Our goal is to make life better and easier for the people of Los Angeles and this extends to small things like how families enjoy the many free events our city sponsors," said Villaraigosa. "We encourage people planning to attend this year's parade to use the Metro system."

Christmas Parade route

The 3.2-mile route starts near the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Orange in front of Grauman's Chinese Theater, then heads east on Hollywood Boulevard to Vine Street where it turns south on Vine to Sunset Boulevard. It turns right west on Sunset and returns west to Orange, ending up in front of Hollywood High School.

Metro will add extra train cars to all Metro Red Line trains on parade day. Prior to the parade, trains will operate every 12 minutes to Hollywood from downtown Los Angeles and from the San Fernando Valley.

Following the parade, trains will depart the Hollywood area every 12 minutes. Service will begin operating every 20 minutes at approximately 9 p.m.

If you're going to the Christmas Parade, here are a few tips:

- Plan to arrive in Hollywood an hour or two before the parade begins to capture a great position. The parade will run from 5 to 7 p.m. but crowds begin assembling by 3 p.m.
- Take Metro Rail or Metro Bus to the parade route.
- Stay a little late. By 9 p.m. most people will have departed.
- Buy tickets for seats, if your budget allows. Prices for grandstand

seats are \$40 for adults and \$35 for children 12 and under. (For tickets call 1-866-PARADE-1.)

• If you'll have a handicapped person with you, specified reserved handicapped areas will be located adjacent to the Number 10 Grandstand, just west of Highland on Hollywood Boulevard.

Metro Bus service will operate according to Sunday schedules. Bus lines serving the parade route are lines 2, 26, 156, 163, 180, 181, 210, 212 and 217. Additional buses will supplement lines servicing the Hollywood area, as needed.

Due to parade route and street closure, Metro will re-route 10 bus lines in the Hollywood area. The lines to be detoured are 2, 26, 156, 163, 180, 181, 207, 210, 212 and 217. Detours will begin at about 3 p.m. on Sunday and last until the conclusion of the parade.

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