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CEO Roger Snoble, joined by Metro Choir members and Tournament of Roses Queen and Court, notes Metro Gold Line is transit of choice for Pasadena festivities. Photo by Dave Sotero.



Rose Queen and Court Urge Public to 'Go Metro' for New Year's Festivities

- Use of Metro Rail more important this year, with events spread over several days
- Free rides on Metro buses, trains on Christmas and New Year's

By DAVE SOTERO

(Dec. 20, 2005) The Tournament of Roses Queen and Court joined Metro officials in Pasadena, today, to urge the public to "Go Metro" to attend 2006 New Year's and Tournament of Roses festivities.

Metro will provide free rides on all Metro buses and trains starting at 9 p.m., Christmas Eve through midnight on Christmas Day. The agency also will provide free rides beginning at 9 p.m., New Year's Eve through midnight on New Year's Day.

Unlike most years, the 117th Rose Parade will take place the day after New Year's on Monday, Jan. 2. Metro will operate the Metro Gold Line and Red Line all night, Sunday, to enable parade goers to get an early place along the parade route.

This year the 92nd Rose Bowl Game, hosting the BCS National Championship between the USC Trojans and the University of Texas Longhorns, is scheduled for a 5 p.m. kick-off on Wednesday, Jan. 4.

"The various Tournament of Roses festivities attract more than one million people," said Tournament of Roses President Libby Evans Wright. "We encourage everyone to make their travel as simple as possible by taking advantage of the convenient Metro service."

"Now in its third year of parade service, the Metro Gold Line has, itself, become a valuable part of the Tournament of Roses tradition, carrying tens of thousands of revelers to these world-class events every year," said CEO Roger Snoble. "All of us at Metro will do everything we can to provide the best transit service to the public so all may enjoy these marquee events."

Parking available

Parking will be available at several Metro Gold Line Stations, including Sierra Madre Villa (950 free and reserve spaces), Del Mar (600 paid spaces), Fillmore (131 free and reserve spaces), Heritage Square/Arroyo (145 free spaces), Lincoln Heights/Cypress Park (91 free spaces) and Union Station (2,000+ paid spaces).

The public may view post-parade floats at Victory Park, corner of Washington and Sierra Madre Boulevards in Pasadena on Jan. 2 and 3. Revelers can take the Metro Gold Line to Sierra Madre Villa Station in East Pasadena, where they can board shuttle buses from the Bus Plaza on the first level, which will take them directly to Victory Park.

Shuttles will depart from Sierra Madre Villa from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. January 2 and from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jan. 3. Regular fares will apply.

Food aficionados may also ride the Metro Gold Line to participate in the Pasadena Food Bowl on Colorado Boulevard in Old Pasadena on Jan. 3 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission is free and will include music, entertainment and arts festival.