

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Ridership on the Metro Red Line climbed nearly 13.7 percent to 3,361,110 average monthly boardings during the January, February, March period.



Photo by Gayle Anderson

Metro Ridership Balloons Along with Region's Gas Prices

By KIM UPTON

(April 25, 2006) In the wake of rocketing gas prices, Metro is experiencing significant gains in ridership, as Southern Californians scramble to avoid paying more than \$3 a gallon for gas.

In the first quarter of 2006, total Metro Rail ridership rose almost 11.4 percent and bus ridership increased 7 percent over the same period last year, based on total monthly boardings.

The most significant gains were seen on the Metro Red Line between North Hollywood and downtown Los Angeles. Ridership climbed nearly 13.7 percent to 3,361,110 average monthly boardings during the January, February, March period.

Ridership also ballooned on the Metro Orange Line, which is not tallied along with bus figures. Since its debut at the end of October, 2005, ridership has grown to more than 18,000 weekday passengers, or about triple first year ridership projections.

Blue Line boardings up

The Metro Blue Line between downtown Los Angeles and Long Beach grew more than 10.7 percent to 2,091,469 average monthly boardings during the January, February, March period.

There are also anecdotal indications that ridership is on the rise. Metro parking lots are filling up faster and earlier, according to Metro officials, and many rush-hour buses and trains are filled to capacity.

Visits to the Southern California regional ride-share Web site (www.commutesmart.info) more than doubled in March over February. The Metro Web site (www.metro.net), which includes the Trip Planner, experienced a 10 percent rise in traffic in March over the previous month as commuters searched for alternatives to expanding gas prices.

The migration to mass transit makes sense, according to Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board Chairman Antonio Villaraigosa. "Not only can you save yourself from rising gas prices; drivers traveling solo can save more than \$5,000 a year, including car depreciation, insurance, gas and parking, if they switch to Metro."