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Home

CEO Hotline

Viewpoint

Classified Ads

Archives

Metro.net (web)

Resources

- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Pressroom (web)
- ▶ Ask the CEO
- ▶ CEO Forum
- ► Employee Recognition
- **▶** Employee Activities
- ▶ Metro Projects
- ► <u>Facts at a Glance</u> (web)
- ▶ Archives
- ▶ Events Calendar
- Research Center/ <u>Library</u>
- ▶ Metro Classifieds
- ▶ Bazaar

Metro Info

- ▶ 30/10 Initiative
- ▶ Policies
- ▶ <u>Training</u>
- ▶ Help Desk
- ▶ Intranet Policy

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Metro Urges Angelenos to Observe California Rideshare Week

By DAVE SOTERO

(Oct. 3, 2006) Metro is urging Los Angeles commuters to share the ride, Oct. 2-6, as part of the annual California Rideshare Week.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 73 percent of Los Angeles County workers drove to work alone in 2003, 13 percent carpooled, 6 percent took public transportation, and 4 percent used other means.

The remaining 4 percent worked at home. Among those who commuted to work, the average travel time was 29 minutes.

In a time of high gasoline prices, daily LA County commuters who switch from solo driving to public transportation, carpools or vanpools can save at least \$4,000 per year in commuting costs.

"Ridesharing once or twice a week can make a big impact on reducing traffic congestion," says David Sutton, director of Metro Commute Services. "If everyone who currently drives alone took transit or shared the ride once a week, it could reduce traffic by 5-10 percent during the rush hour. This could increase freeway speeds up to 30 percent, with speeds jumping from 30 to 40 miles per hour."

About 1,200 worksites now participate in Metro Commute Services programs, representing a 65 percent increase within the last four years. Over 50 worksites have signed up for Metro's annual pass program. More than 225 companies order Metro passes each month.

Home | Phone Directory | Forms Online | FIS Online

