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The Metro Orange Line official first anniversary VIP group is, from left, Metro Board Member David Fleming, Congressman Brad Sherman, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, LA City Council members Wendy Greuel and Tom LaBonge.



## Metro Marks 1st Anniversary of Valley's Orange Line Transitway

- Line logged 6 million boardings; relieved traffic on the 101

By DAVE SOTERO

(Oct. 24, 2006) With the one-year anniversary of the Metro Orange Line just five days away, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, city officials and Metro executives gathered in North Hollywood, Tuesday, to mark the success of the transitway's first year.

Joining Yaroslavsky were Congressman Brad Sherman, LA City Council members Wendy Greuel and Tom LaBonge, Metro Board Member David Fleming, CEO Roger Snoble, San Fernando Valley General Manager Richard Hunt and Kymberleigh Richards, who chairs the Valley's Governance Council.

Following a round of speeches, the VIP party and media representatives boarded a Metro Liner and rode to the Laurel Canyon station and back.

### Orange Line's Success Encouraging Valley Development

(Oct. 24, 2006) The Metro Orange Line's success is encouraging development projects at several points along the 14-mile transitway in the San Fernando Valley.

Metro is seeking developers for 18 acres of Metro-owned property in North Hollywood, where the Metro Red and Orange Lines meet.

The agency envisions a town center of up to 2 million square feet that would preserve the character of the NoHo Arts District and would include housing, commercial and office space. The Metro Board may act on proposals early next year.

Metro also is working with the

On Monday afternoon, media attention was focused on a collision between an eastbound Metro Liner and a southbound delivery truck. The accident occurred at the intersection where the Orange Line crosses Woodman Avenue at Oxnard Street.

Seventeen of some 80 people on the bus sustained at least minor injuries, including Division 8 Operator Edgar Menendez, and 13 were transported to area hospitals for observation. They were later released. The accident is still under investigation, but witnesses said the truck ran a red light at the intersection and hit the bus.

community to design guidelines for a Request for Proposals to develop agency property at the Sepulveda Orange Line station.

At the Balboa Station, Metro is considering a ground lease that could bring 31,000 square feet of new office building space and parking to the site.

### Excellent safety records

Statistics gathered as of September show that both the Metro Orange Line and the larger Metro Bus system have excellent accident safety records. The system averages 3.51 accidents for every 100,000 miles driven, while the Orange Line averages less than half that number at 1.64 accidents per 100,000 miles.



Backed by CEO Roger Snoble and Metro San Fernando Valley GM Richard Hunt, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky spoke, Tuesday, at a media event in North Hollywood marking the anniversary of the Metro Orange Line's first year of service.

Ridership has risen nearly every month, with an average of 21,000 average weekday boardings recorded in September, nearly three times what agency planners had expected when the line opened Oct. 29, 2005. In the last 12 months, Metro estimates the Orange Line has logged more than 6 million boardings.

Weekend ridership also has remained strong, with average Saturday and Sunday boardings in September both reaching new records of 13,413 and 10,887 respectively.

"In our wildest dreams, none of us would have predicted triple the ridership we originally projected in the first year," said Yaroslavsky. "At a cost of only \$330 million, a build time of just over two years and high ridership, the Orange Line is one of the most cost-effective transportation projects in the history of Metro, and arguably, the country."

Independent research has proven that the Metro Orange Line is helping to reduce traffic on the congested 101 Freeway.

### Freeway speed increased

UC Berkeley research, sponsored by the LA Times, found that the speed of weekly traffic through the south San Fernando Valley from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. has increased seven percent, from an average 43 mph to 46 mph. Since the line opened, the amount of time morning commuters waste stuck in congestion on the Valley portion of the 101 Freeway declined 14 percent.

Environmental studies are now underway to extend the Orange Line north to the Chatsworth Metrolink Station using Metro-owned railroad right-of-way. Similar studies are also being considered to provide

dedicated Bus Rapid Transit service on Van Nuys Boulevard.

A new Orange Line station will soon open on Canoga Avenue providing West Valley commuters with a convenient location from which to access the transit line. Along with the new station, Metro is building a 611-space Park & Ride lot, bringing the total number of available parking spaces along the line to more than 3,800 spaces.

Metro is also planning to fully renovate the historic Lankershim Depot immediately adjacent to the North Hollywood Orange Line station. The \$3.6 million project will fulfill the desires of the community to restore the facility at its present location for eventual use as a customer service center.