

[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](#)

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Director John Fasana, CEO Roger Snoble, and Rail General Manager Gerald Francis welcome the 2007 Tournament of Roses Queen Mary McCluggage, at podium, and her court to Union Station Thursday morning to promote Metro Rail service to this year's parade festivities. To accommodate the large crowds expected, Metro will be operating all Metro Rail lines all night long on New Year's Eve to enable people from throughout Los Angeles County to attend the parade.



Photo by Juan Ocampo

Rose Queen® and Royal Court Encourage Public to "Go Metro" to 2007 Rose Parade Festivities

- Metro to run trains all night long New Year's Eve to make getting to parade easy. Metro Gold Line to run additional service New Year's Day

By DAVE SOTERO

(Dec. 22, 2006) The Tournament of Roses Queen and Court joined Metro officials today at the Union Station Metro Gold Line Station to encourage L.A. revelers to "Go Metro" to all 2007 New Year's and Tournament of Roses festivities in Pasadena.

This year's tournament theme is "Our Good Nature" and will feature spirited marching bands from throughout the nation, majestic floral floats, and high-stepping equestrian units. The internationally known event attracts more than one million spectators to Pasadena every year.

"We want everyone to arrive at the parade 'Good Natured,' for having taken advantage of the convenience of Metro Rail and avoiding traffic congestion in Pasadena," said Mary McCluggage, Rose Queen for the 2007 Tournament of Roses.

"The Metro Gold Line is now in its fourth year of parade service. It has become a part of the Tournament of Roses tradition, carrying tens of thousands of spectators to Pasadena for parade festivities," said John Fasana, Duarte City Councilmember and Metro Board member. "With future extensions, the Gold Line will provide whole new communities with rail access to these world-class events."

To promote public safety, Metro will be providing free rides on all Metro buses and trains starting at 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24, through Christmas Day, December 25, ending at 2 a.m. The agency is also providing free rides on New Year's Eve, December 31, beginning at 9 p.m. through New Year's Day, January 1, ending again at 2 a.m.

The 118th Rose Parade® will take place Monday, Jan. 1, 2007 beginning at 8 a.m. All Metro Rail lines will operate all night Sunday at 20 minute headways to facilitate travel countywide and to enable parade goers to get an early place along the parade route. To accommodate a greater number of riders, Metro will run additional trains on the Metro Gold Line beginning at 5 a.m. until approximately 9 p.m.

Parade goers can choose to use one of four train stations in Pasadena: Memorial Park and Del Mar stations are about two blocks from the parade route; the Lake and Allen stations are approximately four blocks from the parade route.

The public may view post-parade floats via Metro Rail. Metro is offering shuttle service from the Sierra Madre Villa Gold Line Station on January 1 to Post Parade Park beginning at 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Shuttle service from Post Parade Park back to the Sierra Madre Villa Station will continue to 5:30pm. On January 2 shuttle service from the station to Post Parade Park begins at 7 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. Service from Post Parade Park to Sierra Madre Villa Station will continue until 5:30 p.m. Shuttle buses will pick up passengers every five to ten minutes from the station during these times. The cost to ride is a regular fare plus a transfer.

This year the 93rd Rose Bowl Game between USC and the University of Michigan is scheduled for 2 p.m. kick-off. Sports fans attending this game can also utilize the Metro Gold Line and exit at Memorial Park Station. They can then walk a short distance down Holly Street to the Parsons parking lot at 100 West Walnut Street to catch a free game shuttle starting at 1 p.m.