


[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](#)
[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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## Metro's Final Weekend of 2006 Ends in Rush of Activity

- Shuttle service in Palm Desert; Tournament of Roses activities

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Dec.28, 2006) The final weekend of 2006 promises to be an unusually busy one for Metro as employees provide overnight shuttle service for President Ford's mourners in Palm Desert and gear up for expanded rail and bus service for New Year's Eve, the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl game.

Metro and three other transit agencies will begin shuttle service at 4 p.m., Friday, between the Indian Wells Tennis Gardens and St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert where the former president will lie in repose. See myMetro.net article> [Shuttles for President Ford Services](#)

A total of 56 buses, including 18 Metro buses and some 30 operators, will provide shuttle service, which will continue until 7 a.m., Saturday. Buses and operators from Sun Line Transit of Palm Springs, OCTA and Omni Trans of San Bernardino also will be involved.

On Sunday, Metro will begin its around-the-clock New Year's operation. Patrons can ride free on all Metro service from 9 p.m., Dec. 31, until 2 a.m., Jan. 1. Trains on all four lines will continue operation past midnight with 20-minute headways into Monday morning.

Holiday schedules will be in effect, New Year's Day, on the Metro Red, Blue and Green Lines. Beginning at about 6 a.m., Monday, the Metro Gold Line will operate on 7-minute headways to serve riders going to the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena.

## Alternative transportation

"This will give people an alternative means of transportation for the New Year's weekend," says Rail Division Transportation Manager Bruce Shelburne. Almost 50 Metro Rail personnel will be assigned to support the Gold Line operation.

A total of 45 Transit Security officers and about 100 Sheriff's deputies, reserves, mounted patrol officers and fare inspectors from the Transit Services Bureau will provide security for Gold Line activities during the day. I

Eight Metro ticket vendors will be assigned to sell day passes during the Gold Line operation. They will be stationed at the Customer Center in the East Portal; at the entrance to the Gold Line platform at Union Station and at the Del Mar, Memorial, Lake, Allen and Sierra Madre stations.

In addition to Gold Line service to and from the Rose Parade, 10 Metro

buses provided by various divisions will be assigned to transport riders from the Memorial Park and Del Mar stations to Union Station after the parade.

A total of 15 buses will be assigned to supplement train service after the Rose Bowl game to ferry riders from Memorial Park to Union Station – an operation that could take up to three hours.

“It will be quite a ballet we’ll have to perform to get everybody out of there,” says Shelburne. “If we can load buses at the same time we’re loading trains, it will make everybody’s experience more pleasant.”