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## Transit Ridership Up Nationwide and in Los Angeles

- More than population growth or growth in vehicle miles

By DAVE SOTERO

(March 14, 2007) Americans took 10.1 billion trips public transportation nationwide in 2006 – the most in 49 years.

Over the last decade nationwide, public transit ridership use grew 30 percent. That is more than double the growth rate of the population (12 percent) and higher than the growth rate for the vehicle miles traveled on our roads (24 percent) during that same period.

To put the 10.1 billion public transportation trips in perspective, transit trips outnumber domestic airline trips by 15 to one.

Metro system ridership increased 5.74 percent from 2005 to 2006, nearly twice the national average of 2.9 percent. Specifically, Metro bus ridership grew 5.28 percent and rail grew 8.07 percent in that time period.

"Reaching this milestone is a result of the quality of service we provide in helping people get to destinations important to them," said Board Chair Gloria Molina. "In addition, many riders realize the benefits of saving money from rising fuel costs and avoiding congestion. They also like knowing that their transportation choice is contributing to help reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and global warming."

Metro has introduced a host of new rail and bus services that make public transit use in Los Angeles a better alternative than solo driving for a growing number of Angelenos.

"Public transportation is a proven way to meet our national, regional and local transportation goals," said CEO Roger Snoble. "As Congress and our elected officials look to find ways to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, we call on them to increase investment and include incentives to encourage further increases in transit ridership."

