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Board Chair Gloria Molina and Vice-Chair Pam O'Connor lead Metro officials in demonstrating that "dumping the pump" and using public transit will save money, reduce congestion and help the environment.



Photos by Gary Leonard

Metro Officials 'Dump the Pump'; Call for More Transit Use in LA

- 'Good for your pocketbook; good for reducing congestion; helping the environment,' says O'Connor
- Introduction of two Metro Rapid Express, two Metro Rapid lines

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(June 21, 2007) "I dumped the pump this morning," Metro Board Vice-Chair Pam O'Connor declared, Thursday, as she kicked off LA's observance of national "Dump the Pump" day on Patsaouras Plaza.

O'Connor arrived at the news conference from her Santa Monica home via Metro Rapid Line 720 and the Metro Red Line. Board Chair Gloria Molina caught the Metro Gold Line and CEO Roger Snoble rode the subway from the Valley to make their date with local media.

"Every day in the Los Angeles area, residents have the opportunity to beat that high price of gasoline and to recognize that public transportation is an important travel option that helps reduce our nation's dependence on

foreign oil,” said O’Connor, who will succeed Molina, July 1, as Board chair. “Dumping the Pump is truly good for your pocketbook; it’s good for reducing congestion and it’s really helping the environment.”

During the news conference, Metro announced the opening of two Metro Rapid Express lines and two new Metro Rapid lines, beginning next week. Changes also are scheduled for a number of other bus lines, many of which will see the addition of new articulated buses.

Metro Rapid Express Line 920 will operate on Wilshire Boulevard between Vermont Avenue and downtown Santa Monica. Metro Rapid Express Line 940 will operate from the South Bay Galleria in Torrance to Patsaouras Plaza via Hawthorne and Crenshaw boulevards.

Metro Rapid Line 704 will operate on Santa Monica Boulevard, while Metro Rapid Line 760 will serve the Blue Line Artesia station and downtown LA.



Board Vice-Chair Pam O’Connor said using public transit reduces carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions by 50 percent per passenger mile compared to the private vehicle.

‘Fast, convenient and safe’

“At Metro, we look for new and better ways to accommodate more and more riders and make it more convenient for them,” Snoble said. “We’re happy about our ability to continue to improve the service, to provide new service to our customers and make it fast, convenient and safe.”

According to the American Public Transportation Association, the average household spends 18 cents of every dollar on transportation, almost 20 percent. Of that, 94 percent goes to buying, maintaining and operating automobiles, O’Connor noted.

Households that use public transit, however, save almost \$1,400 in gasoline per year. By using transit, she said, households can save almost \$6,200 annually on the cost of an additional vehicle – more than the average household pays for food in a year.

“When you use public transit,” said O’Connor, “you are reducing carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions by 50 percent per passenger mile compared to the private vehicle.”

Nationwide, that saves about 1.4 billion gallons of gasoline each year – the

equivalent of 108 million cars filling up every year, she added. "The typical public transit rider consumes, on average, just one half of the oil consumed by an automobile rider."

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