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Crowds cheer transit along the parade route in Pacific Palisades on July 4th.



Photos by Mark Samara

Independence Day Parade Celebrates Freedom from Automobiles

- Riders celebrate Commuter Express Line 430's 20th anniversary

(July 11, 2007) On a day marking the American Colonies' independence from Great Britain, Metro and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) celebrated a bus line that offers its riders independence from the automobile.

At the annual Pacific Palisades 4th of July parade, many Line 430 riders, their friends and families helped decorate a Commuter Express bus to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the line. Metro contributed a banner proclaiming "Show your independence. Go Metro."



Promoting transit at the Pacific Palisades 4th of July parade are, from left, Metro employee Ben Nahid, Palisades community activist Haldis Toppel, Steve Lantz and his daughter Katie Lantz, Metro Director Zev Yaroslavsky, Assemblywoman Julia Brownley, Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl, Audrey Litvak and her mother, Metro Communications Manager Jody Litvak.

Commuter Express Line 430 provides two trips each weekday morning to downtown Los Angeles from Pacific Palisades, Brentwood and Westwood. The line picked up many new riders two years ago when it was rerouted to serve Loyola High School, located on Venice Boulevard near Normandie.

"Line 430 is a perfect example of each transit operator concentrating on what it does best," said Jody Litvak, communications manager and a regular Line 430 rider. "Commuter Express lines provide a different service than Metro does."

Getting the bus in the parade was the idea of Steve Lantz, a regular Line 430 passenger and former Metro employee who is now Metrolink's Director of Communications and Development.

"It was really fun," said Ben Nahid, project engineering manager in Metro's Rail Capital Projects, and another regular rider of Line 430. "Everyone cheered and waved as we came by in the parade. I think it was a good way to promote the line and transit in general."

LADOT took over operation of the route from the SCRTD in 1987.

--from Jody Litvak