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Metro Offers Customized Directory to Aid Parents in 'School Pool' Program

- Directory includes street- and city-level contacts for parents

By DAVE SOTERO

(Sept. 4, 2007) Metro has beefed up its "Metro School Pool" program to make it even easier for parents to form or join carpools to get their children to school this fall.

The program, now in its fifth year, will provide a free, customized school carpooling directory containing street- and city-level contacts that parents can reference to expedite their ridesharing relationships.

The School Pool Directory can be used to find partners for biking and walking to school as well.

Schools are considered ideal opportunities for carpooling relationships, as many families within the same community drop off their children at the same time and location, often creating peak-hour congestion on surrounding streets and roadways.

"Besides reducing traffic and parking nightmares at schools, Metro's School Pool Program helps save the environment by reducing air pollution caused by car exhaust, helping everyone breathe a little easier," said Metro Board Chair Pam O'Connor.

Raising awareness

Metro will also provide schools with promotional posters and flyers to raise awareness of the program by students and parents.

Metro School Pool began as a program offering free, voluntary and confidential matching services to parents interested in organizing school carpools.

This option is still available and is open to students in all participating public and private elementary, middle and high schools in Los Angeles County. Participation is voluntary and parents share the task of driving students to and from campus.

For information on the program or to sign up, parents must contact their local schools and complete a Metro School Pool survey. They either get matched with other parents from their childrens' school or receive a copy of the Metro School Pool Directory.

Parents phone one another and discuss their student's schedules, arrange pick-up and drop-off points and decide how to share carpool costs and driving responsibilities.

