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APTA: Public Transportation Ridership Continues Climb in 2007

- Metro ridership also increases from 2006 to 2007

(Oct. 4, 2007) The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) announced, Thursday, that Americans took 78 million more trips on public transportation during the first six months of 2007, compared to the first six months of 2006.

More than 5 billion trips were taken during the six-month period, representing a 2.3 percent increase in the second quarter and a 1.1 percent increase in the first quarter of 2007.

A total of 10.1 billion trips were taken nationwide in 2006 – the highest in 49 years. In Los Angeles, Metro ridership between January 2007 and June 2007 increased 2.3 percent when compared with the period from January 2006 to June 2006.

“The good news is that public transit ridership is growing on top of last year’s record ridership,” said APTA President William W. Millar. “Whether it is because of high gas prices, increased congestion, or new and expanded transit services, more and more people are choosing public transportation.”

In the first six months of 2007, commuter rail had the highest growth rate of all modes at 5.5 percent.

Light rail had the second highest percentage of ridership growth among all modes of transportation, with a 4.1 percent increase. Heavy rail (subways) ridership grew nationally by 2.8 percent during the first six months of 2007.

Bus ridership in small and large communities also showed increases. Nationally, bus ridership increased by 0.6 percent. Paratransit ridership increased by 3.7 percent.

Survey Shows:
6 in 10 Riders
Take Public
Transit to Work

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