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Sharleen Yoshimi, Metro senior creative designer, her husband, Jamie McLaughlin, and their dog, Sweet Pea, live in the Archstone apartment complex, which straddles the Gold Line Del Mar station in Pasadena. After living in transit-oriented housing, Yoshimi said she's never going back to a daily commute. Photo by Jimmy Stroup

moved away from Monterey Park – to Pasadena. Their apartment is in Archstone Del Mar, one of Metro's transit-oriented partnerships along the Gold Line.

Yoshimi's move has dramatically changed the way she looks at transit in the city. She takes the Gold Line to work each day, praising both the regularity of the schedule and the stress-free ride to and from work.

"I had to drive the other day and as soon as I got on the freeway, someone's tailgating me, you know?" she said. "It's a noticeable difference. I'm grumpier when I have to drive. I feel a sense of security when I take the train."

Living so close to – and regularly using – transit has caused Yoshimi to find religion, so to speak, regarding public transportation. Where once she'd take Metro sparingly, she and her husband are now looking for alternative transportation in all their activities.

'Opened our eyes about transit'

"It's encouraged us, I think, and opened up our eyes about transit," she said. "Living at the Del Mar Station is great because we walk everywhere now. There are weekends where we don't even drive the car."

Her husband, Jamie, has similar feelings and has become a regular

After Years of Commuting Alone, She's a Convert to Transit

- Metro's Sharleen Yoshimi and her husband, Jamie, now live just steps away from the Metro Gold Line.

By JIMMY STROUP

(Oct. 12, 2007) Sharleen Yoshimi has worked in the Design Studio at Metro for four years. Most of that time, she lived in Monterey Park and commuted the 20 minutes it took to get to Gateway Transit Center.

"I was the SUV driver," she said. "Everyone else in the office rode transit and I was the one who commuted."

Lately, though, Yoshimi's life has been filled with change. She recently married Jamie

McLaughlin, a screenwriter, and

moved away from Monterey Park – to Pasadena. Their apartment is in Archstone Del Mar, one of Metro's transit-oriented partnerships along the Gold Line.

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Her husband, Jamie, has similar feelings and has become a regular

transit rider – thanks in no small part to the spouse pass.

“With the spouse pass, the city is my oyster. It’s a great perk. It’s not the only reason I married Sharleen, but I have to say it was a factor,” he joked. “I’d never really take Metro before. This has been a great introduction and it’s better than I’d expected.”

Yoshimi has nothing but nice things to say about the Archstone complex. And as far as noise from the train goes, she said they never hear a peep. The experience has truly converted her little family’s outlook as far as how they want to live in the future.

“It’s just been great. I feel like I get my exercise done, my shopping done, everything – and all around my area,” she said. “We’ve fallen in love with being able to walk to places. When we look for a place to buy, we’re definitely looking more to areas within walking distance of a little village or shopping area.”

“Oh, and transit, too – close to Metro,” she quickly added.