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50 Million More Transit Trips Taken Nationwide in Third Quarter

- · Nationwide, light rail leads with 8.9 percent rise
- Go to: APTA's complete report

Metro Bus ridership declined slightly in October, but rail ridership was up from previous year

(Dec. 18, 2007) The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) reports that Americans took nearly 50 million more trips on public transportation during the third quarter of 2007, compared to the third quarter of 2006—a 2 percent increase in ridership.

Against a background of high gasoline prices and efforts in Congress to raise the minimum gas mileage standard for automobiles sold in the United States, the third quarter of 2007 saw light rail use grow 8.9 percent, the highest percentage of ridership growth among all modes of transportation.

Commuter rail had the second highest growth rate of all modes, rising 5.4 percent. Heavy rail ridership grew nationally by 4.0 percent.

Bus ridership throughout the country showed a slight increase of 0.1 percent, although that rise varied by community size. In communities with a population below 100,000, bus ridership grew 7.5 percent.

Paratransit ridership increased by 4.5 percent for the third quarter of 2007, while trolley bus ridership increased by 1.5 percent. Other types of public transportation increased by 6.7 percent.

In Los Angeles, Metro Bus ridership in October declined 7 percent from October 2006, although ridership on the Orange Line was up 18.5 percent. Ridership on all four Metro Rail lines increased in October from the previous year: Red Line, 7.7 percent; Blue Line, 3 percent; Green Line, 10 percent; and Metro Gold Line, 7 percent.

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