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Postcard from L.A.: Go Metro to 2008 Tournament of Roses® Festivities



Photos by Juan Ocampo

## Metro Gold Line's Big Day

### Special Commemorative 'Rose' Train Leads the Way to the 119th Tournament of Roses Parade and 94th Rose Bowl Game

By DAVE SOTERO

The Tournament of Roses Queen and Court joined Metro officials Dec. 21 at Union Station to dedicate a special Metro Gold Line train as the 2008 "Tournament Train."

The commemorative train features colorful exterior artwork spanning two entire rail cars. Looking like a giant bouquet of roses as it travels between downtown Los Angeles and Pasadena, the Tournament Train is promoting Metro Gold Line service to tens of thousands of L.A. residents during its 10-day run leading up to New Year's Day.



Photographer Peter Watkinson captures the Tournament Train as it glides through South Pasadena at the Mission Station. Designed by the Metro Design Studio, the exterior ads that line both sides of the Tournament Train measure 35" tall. The longer panels are 180"; the shorter panels are 115" wide.

"The Tournament of Roses parade and game is the biggest venue for Metro Gold Line service all year, with upwards of 60,000 train boardings on a single day," said Board Chair Pam O'Connor. "Metro is meeting that demand this year with quality, all-night train service and free rides from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. that day to ensure the public enjoys these wonderful New Year's festivities."

Metro provides easy transport into Pasadena via the Metro Gold Line, which, along with all Metro Rail lines, will operate all night long to transport parade goers. As an added incentive, Metro will be offering free train rides from 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve to 2 a.m. the following morning. Patrons attending parade festivities after 2 a.m. will need to purchase fare.

"The Metro Gold Line is now in its fifth official year of Parade service, and we're quite proud to now be an important part of the Tournament tradition," said CEO Roger Snoble.

The 119th Rose Parade will take place Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008, beginning at 8 a.m. Train lines will operate all night Monday at 20 minute headways to facilitate travel throughout L.A. County.

To accommodate a greater number of Metro Gold Line riders to and from Pasadena, Metro will run additional trains on the Metro Gold Line beginning at 5 a.m. until approximately 9 p.m.

Parade goers can access any of four Pasadena train stations: Memorial Park and Del Mar stations are about two blocks from the Parade route; the Lake and Allen stations are approximately four blocks from the Parade route.

"Unless you are fortunate enough to ride on a float, Metro is definitely the preferred method of transportation for getting to the Rose Parade."

--2008 Rose Queen Dusty Gibbs



Royal Court for the 2008 Tournament of Roses joins Metro officials at Union Station to dedicate the special 'Tournament Train' of the Metro Gold Line.

Parking is available at several Metro Gold Line Stations, including Sierra Madre Villa (950 free spaces), Del Mar (600 paid spaces), Fillmore (131 free spaces), Mission (122 spaces), Heritage Square/Arroyo (145 free spaces), Lincoln Heights/Cypress Park (91 free spaces) and Union Station (2,000+ paid spaces).

The public may view the floats after the Parade at Post Parade: A Showcase of Floats via Metro Rail. Shuttles will be provided from the Sierra Madre Villa Metro Gold Line Station on January 1 to the Post Parade venue beginning at 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Shuttle service from the Post Parade venue back to the Sierra Madre Villa Station will continue to 5:30pm. On January 2 shuttle service from the station to the Post Parade venue begins at 7 a.m. for seniors and disabled, 9 a.m. for general public and ends at 3 p.m. Service from the Post Parade venue to Sierra Madre Villa Station will continue until 5:30 p.m. Shuttle buses will pick up passengers every five to ten minutes from the station during these times. The cost to ride is a regular fare plus a transfer.

The 94th Rose Bowl Game between the University of Illinois Fighting Illini and the University of Southern California Trojans will kick off at 2:10 p.m. Sports fans attending this game can also utilize the Metro Gold Line and exit at Memorial Park Station. They can then walk a short distance down Holly Street to the Parsons parking lot at 100 West Walnut Street to catch a free game shuttle starting at 10 a.m.