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Metro Line	Sept. 2007 (Average Weekday Boardings)	Sept. 2008 (Average Weekday Boardings)	Change (%)
Orange	25,618	27,987	+9.25
Red/Purple	136,355	149,699	+9.79
Green	40,576	45,346	+11.75
Gold	19,579	25,511	+30.3
Blue	77,834	84,917	+9.1
Directly Operated Bus	1,179,359	1,253,620	+6.3

Ridership Remains Strong; Orange Line Sets Another Record

- All bus and rail lines report year-over-year boarding increases

(Oct. 16, 2008) Metro’s bus and rail ridership has remained strong on a year-over-year basis—despite the continued reduction in local gasoline prices—with the Metro Orange Line reaching another ridership record and the Metro Gold Line logging a 30-percent increase.

At 27,987 average weekday boardings for September, the San Fernando Valley’s popular Metro Orange Line reached the highest number of boardings since the line opened in October 2005.

Average weekday boardings on the Metro Gold Line reached 25,511 in September, which is more than a 30-percent increase compared with September 2007. Metro’s subway and Blue Line both experienced a nearly 10-percent increase in boardings, and Metro Green Line boardings grew by almost 12 percent.

Metro directly operated bus boardings jumped 6.3 percent during the same year-over-year period.

The increases come in spite of the recent reductions in the price of gasoline, which have retreated from all-time highs earlier this year.

“We’re seeing our highest gain on the commuter-type services,” said Conan Cheung, DEO, Operations, of the Gold and Orange lines. “We’re capturing people who have chosen to park their cars and take our lines to work.”

Cheung noted that the parking facilities along the Gold Line are usually filled by 8:30 a.m., particularly the Sierra Madre Villa station parking structure.

And, according to Cheung, riders are choosing the Orange Line for “reverse commuting.” (Passengers traveling in the opposite direction of the dominate travel direction are reverse commuting.)

“We see a high ridership that gets on the Orange Line from the Red Line and takes it into the valley. If you can generate ridership—load up at both ends of the line—you’re really increasing the productivity of our service,” Cheung explained.

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) reported last week that a person living in Los Angeles could save \$856 per month, or \$10,268 per year, by taking public transit instead of driving (based on current gas prices and parking rates).

*--Dave Sotero contributed to this report*

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