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Backed by the Metro Choir, Metro Rail General Manager Mike Cannell and Metro Board Member Doug Failing meet up with 2009 Tournament of Roses Queen and Royal Court at the Metro Gold Line Del Mar Station to encourage parade-goers and Rosebowl fans to "Go Metro" to New Year's festivities in Pasadena.

Metro perfect match for Tournament of Roses Parade and Rose Bowl Patrons

By LAURA KLOTH
myMetro.net

It's official. There's just no excuse for driving to this year's Tournament of Roses Parade or Rose Bowl game.

Mike Cannell, General Manager, Rail Operations, couldn't predict the outcome of Thursday's game between USC and Penn State, but he could guarantee traffic on the 210 and 110 freeways will be a nightmare.

Cannell joined the Rose Queen and other Metro officials and personnel Monday to encourage event patrons to ride the Metro Gold Line.

Stepping off from the Del Mar Station in Pasadena the group boarded the train and stopped off at a couple of local stops where Metro will provide special event services this year including a shuttle for the game.

Indicating that Los Angeles is officially the most congested city in the U.S., Cannell encouraged parade and game patrons to take Metro.

"It's not only smart, simple and secure. It's very cheap," Cannell said during the press conference. Cannell, who rides the Gold Line every day, encouraged riders who planned to park at the stations to get there early before the lots fill up.



Photo op: TAP card sets off media frenzy when Rose Queen Courtney Lee and the Royal Court attempt to board the Metro Gold Line.



As she boarded the train, Rose Queen Courtney Lee admitted this would be her first ride ever. However, Lee, an Arcadia High School student, said she planned to use public transportation when she attends USC.

"I don't find traffic and waiting entertaining at all," said the Arcadia resident who beat out more than 1,100 other girls to reign over the 120th Rose Parade.

To accommodate the additional Gold Line users, Metro will run three car trains carrying up to 600 passengers every seven to eight minutes at peak riding periods Thursday.

As a public service, Metro bus and rail will be free from 9 p.m. Dec. 31 until 2 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2009. Fares go into effect again at 2 a.m. on New Year's Day with \$5 for a Metro Day Pass.

Game patrons will be happy to know that they can ride the Gold Line to the Memorial Park Station where they can catch a free game shuttle just a short walk from their stop.

Monday's event also included members of Metro's Choir headed by Renee Willis. The choir carried on the holiday spirit by singing Christmas carols onboard the Gold Line train complete with a "Rose Bowl Special" headsign.

This year’s Rose Parade theme is “Hats Off to Entertainment” and will feature the 46 highly anticipated floral floats including a float dedicated to organ donors. This is the sixth year the Metro Gold Line provides services to the event.

- Communications welcomes writer and reporter Laura Kloth to the staff of *myMetro.net*.