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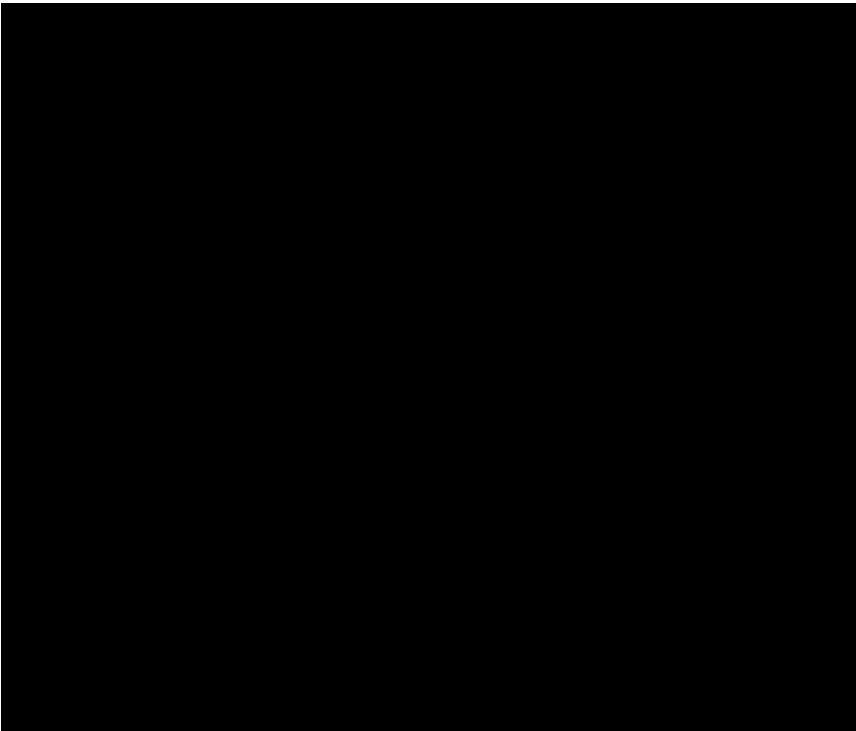
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Video by Rich Morallo. Not hooked up to YouTube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u97igGWNunE> NOTE: This YouTube link is being sent to you for the purpose of viewing the Metro video only. Metro employees are subject to the Employee Code of Conduct that generally restricts the use of company time/equipment to conducting Metro business. Please click on icon above to view the video.

Carson Seniors Get Transit Help at Dial-A-Ride Fair

By Rich Morallo
Community Relations / Volunteer Coordinator

(Feb. 9, 2010) Mike Gobert's decision to attend a recent Dial-A-Ride Orientation sponsored by the City of Carson was more than just a way to gather some useful information – it was an exercise in personal independence.

"When I had to stop driving due to my health, I used to have to wait for family to pick me up and take to my appointments," said the wheelchair-bound Gobert after visiting the Metro transit information table. "But now I'll be able to go to where I need to go myself."

Gobert was just one of some 1,200 South Bay seniors who were invited to attend the event at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center in Carson and learn how they can be more independent and flexible in getting to where they need to be - on their own.

"We're trying to make public transit convenient and comfortable," explained Carson Transportation Services Manager Cara Rice, who organized the four-day program to introduce clients to the city's new paperless card system. "With this system you will swipe the card when

you get into the cab and swipe it when you get out," Rice said.

Metro bus operators Makeba Rice and Alisha Roquemore busied themselves distributing bus timetables and train schedules and advising the attendees on how to best utilize Metro's county-wide transportation network.

"Arrange the numbers in this book to signal the buses or line you want to ride," said Rice as she opened a Metro Flash Book for a visitor, while Roquemore passed out bags and sign-up sheets for seniors to use Metro to visit a variety of Southland destinations such as the Getty Museum and Shoreline Village.

Conceived and designed by the Metro Communications Department, Flash Books are used by seniors and others to signal Metro bus operators what lines they want to ride.

Tony Banash with the Citizens' Advisory Council was on hand to explain Metro's fare system to the seniors and share his experiences with the agency.

"I can ride transit easily from Long Beach to get to the Carson Community Center," Banash said, a sentiment shared by Shelly Green, who appreciates paying only a quarter to travel on the Metro rail system.

"It feels like I'm in Disneyland when I'm riding on rail," Green said.