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MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
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METRO GREEN LINE PASSENGERS GOBBLE UP LAX SHUTTLE DURING LONG THANKSGIVING DAY WEEKEND

Holiday ridership on the free shuttle from the Metro Green Line station at Aviation Boulevard and Imperial Highway to LAX more than doubled over Thanksgiving 1996, compared to the same period in 1995.

"That translates to 8,000 more passengers who avoided massive freeway jams, made it to the airport much quicker, and avoided parking fees," said MTA Board Chairman Larry Zarian. Free parking is available at 12 of 14 Green Line stations.

With Christmas and more holiday gridlock just around the corner, the MTA expects Green Line and LAX shuttle ridership figures to continue to grow.

"Obviously people were listening to the MTA's message about the convenience of the Metro Green Line and LAX shuttle," said Joseph E. Drew, chief executive officer. "The numbers are very gratifying."

Since the summer of 1995, the world has become less stressful for the passengers who ride the Green Line, a 20-mile light rail system which transports 17,100 people a day from Norwalk to Redondo at speeds of up to 55 mph, and bypasses freeway snarls and rush hour traffic.

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Never is this more true than during the holidays when freeway and residential congestion is at its worst and arriving or departing LAX is a top priority for close to 1 million travelers.

"Once you prove to the people in the community that something actually works and will save them time, money and heartache, it will increasingly become more popular," Zarian said. "So to that effect, I am not all that surprised the Green Line and the shuttle to LAX shuttle are really taking off. "

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