

## **Metro Becoming More Cost-Effective for Commuters as Gasoline Prices Continue to Rise**

Metro bus and rail service is becoming an even better alternative for Los Angeles County commuters as prices for gasoline continue to rise in Southern California.

Gasoline prices in California have climbed for five consecutive weeks, according to the Automobile Club of Southern California. The average price for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline is \$1.664 per gallon, which is 43 cents higher than last year. Prices are expected to continue to rise as troubles escalate in the Middle East.

MTA is now poised to help mitigate the effects of increased gasoline prices by offering commuters cost-effective transportation alternatives via its expansive, intermodal transit network serving Los Angeles County and beyond. The typical fare for riders of the Metro Red, Green and Blue Lines and Metro Buses is just \$1.35, and is even lower with the purchase of weekly, biweekly or monthly passes or tokens.

Travel times on these transit systems are competitive with auto travel times in many cases, but are particularly more cost-effective when yearly costs for automobile ownership, parking, fuel, maintenance and insurance are considered.

The Metro system is helping more and more commuters get where they need to go. Ridership on the Metro Red Line, for example, has doubled since service was extended to North Hollywood two years ago. MTA plans to extend service from the North Hollywood Metro Red Line Station to Warner Center in Woodland Hills via a 14-mile transitway exclusively for high-capacity Metro Rapid buses within the next two years.

Metro rail is expanding as well. The Metro Gold Line is scheduled to open this summer, and will provide commuters in the San Gabriel Valley with inexpensive options to commute between Pasadena and Downtown Los Angeles, serving the communities of Los Angeles, Chinatown, Lincoln Heights, Highland Park, South Pasadena and Pasadena. MTA plans to extend the Metro Gold Line to East Los Angeles in the future.

MTA also plans to expand its successful Metro Rapid bus program. Clean compressed natural gas buses that synchronize with traffic signals to extend green lights and shorten red ones for increased travel times will be added to 23 lines within the next five years. Ridership on these buses has risen dramatically on many of the buses already deployed in Los Angeles, some as much as 38 percent.

Metro Buses and rail lines now operate longer hours, providing riders with increased commuting options. New bicycle rule changes allow riders more freedom to bring their bikes onboard the Metro transit system.

Metrolink trains provide commuters in six counties in Southern California with fast, reliable service that connect riders with Metro Rail and Buses at Union Station.

For additional information on Metro transit services or to plan your next trip, please call 1-800-COMMUTE or visit [WWW.MTA.NET](http://WWW.MTA.NET).

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