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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Ride Matching Web Site Ready For Rideshare Week Oct. 6-10

- **www.ridematch.info helps people find rideshare partners throughout Southern California**

In anticipation of Rideshare Week Oct. 6-10, 2003, five county agencies announce the launch of a newly designed Web site that enables commuters interested in ridesharing to easily find each other anywhere in Southern California.

Located on the Web at WWW.RIDEMATCH.INFO and via MTA's Web site at WWW.MTA.NET, the site is a joint partnership among all five county transportation agencies: MTA, Orange County Transportation Authority, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Bernardino Associated Governments and Ventura County Transportation Commission. All of these agencies share and maintain the online rideshare database, which provides regional contacts, maps and other resources needed for commuters to initiate rideshare relationships. Currently, there are more than 300,000 commuters registered in the database, with more added every day.

"Ridesharing is an excellent way for people to share the cost of driving and use carpool lanes to get to work faster," said David Sutton, MTA Employer Programs Manager. "During Rideshare Week, we encourage everyone to 'pick a day, any day' to rideshare. This new Web site provides instant rideshare results, making it easy for everyone to immediately find a ridesharing situation that best meets their needs." Commuters interested in ridesharing can register online by submitting their contact information and their home and work locations. They can specify nearby intersections, their work start and end times, carpool and/or vanpool preferences and schedule flexibility.

The site will then provide choices to find carpool, vanpool or park and ride matches within a three-mile radius of their home and work. Next, the database will list all fellow commuters who match the selected criteria, listing the person's name and residing city, his/her employers' name and address, working hours and flexibility. To ensure confidentiality, the database does not list a person's home street address in its results.

Commuters can then view a map showing their home location in proximity to those of other ride sharers, work locations, park & ride lots, and pickup and drop off points. The map can be zoomed in or out depending on the view requested.

Commuters may change their profile at any time to reflect changing commuting requirements.

The database does not contain information relating to Metro Bus and Rail service. However, commuters can view the interactive trip planner on the MTA Web site at WWW.MTA.NET. Public transportation information will be integrated with [Ridematch.info](http://www.ridematch.info) early next year.

Commuters without Internet access can also obtain ridesharing information by calling 1.800.COMMUTE and selecting Option 3.

MTA partners with employers throughout California to promote the statewide Rideshare Week campaign every year. This year MTA is offering L.A. County commuters the chance to win a Rideshare Week T-shirt and prize package on its Web site. The prize package consists of CD holder, antenna ball, pens and more. A dozen winners will be announced Oct. 14.

MTA's Metro Commute Services Department helps promote alternatives to driving alone, including carpooling, vanpooling, taking transit, bicycling, walking, and telecommuting, as well as "smart work" strategies such as flex-

time, or compressed work schedules.

For more information, visit the MTA Web site at WWW.MTA.NET.

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