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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ridematch.Info Web Site Logs Record Number of Visits as L.A. Commuters Explore Ridesharing Options in Midst of Countywide Transit Strike

- 13,652 web site visits recorded since strike began as more commuters seek transportation alternatives

As the transit strike enters its third day, more Los Angeles area commuters are turning to www.ridematch.info to find ridesharing partners to reach work, school, and other destinations.

Since the strike began Tuesday, Oct. 14, the web site has logged a record 13,652 visits. Also during that time, MTA's 1-800-COMMUTE line has registered another 895 rideshare requests. The phone line has been inundated since the strike began, and rideshare callers experiencing a busy signal are urged to visit the web site instead.

"MTA encourages all commuters who have been affected by this strike to explore ridesharing options via the Ridematch.info web site," said David Sutton, MTA Employer Programs Executive Manager. "In this difficult time, ridesharing is an excellent way for people to get where they need to go in Los Angeles and throughout Southern California."

The web 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 Southern California 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.

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 ridesharers, 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.

For additional information, visit the MTA web site at www.mta.net.

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