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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MTA Announces "Metro School Pool" Rideshare Program to Help Parents Get Their Children to and from Schools**

Recognizing that the transit strike has made it difficult for students to get to and from class safely and on time, MTA announces a partnership with area schools that will provide free, school-specific rideshare information to parents.

Called Metro School Pool, the program is an innovative addition to MTA's Rideshare Program, which helps commuters and employers find alternatives to driving alone, including carpooling, vanpooling, taking transit, bicycling, walking, and telecommuting.

MTA will work with public, private and charter schools and school districts to establish an exclusive database of families interested in forming or joining a carpool at specific elementary and secondary school campuses within Los Angeles County. MTA's Metro Commute Services Department will then develop customized parent-to-parent match lists and other available alternatives. School administrators will collect from and distribute rideshare information to parents directly to protect the identity and confidentiality of families.

Parents forming school carpools will establish their own ridesharing ground rules, such as pickup times, pickup locations and seating arrangements.

MTA is now identifying and contacting area schools and school districts to participate in the program. MTA staff is available to participate in upcoming Back To School Nights and other school functions to promote the program.

Interested school administrators should call (213) 922-2811 and select "Option" 3 to register their schools for participation in the program. The 24-hour automated voice system will record their message and an MTA account executive will contact them.

MTA, working with five other county transportation agencies, also provides a ride matching service for all Southern California commuters interested in ridesharing. The web site provides carpool and vanpool match lists, maps and other resources needed for commuters to initiate rideshare relationships. Visit the web site at [www.ridematch.info](http://www.ridematch.info).

For additional information, visit MTA's web site at [www.mta.net](http://www.mta.net) or call 1-800-COMMUTE.

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