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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro Attracting Growing Number Of Auto Drivers To Bus, Rail System

(Los Angeles) – Recent surveys by Metro show the number of people with access to cars or trucks that are choosing to use Metro’s buses and trains instead of commuting by automobile is growing. In Spring 2004, 29 percent of Metro riders had a car or truck available for their commute, up from 22 percent in Fall 2002.

“As congestion continues to grow in Los Angeles County the Metro System is becoming an increasingly attractive way to get around,” said Frank Roberts, Lancaster Mayor and chair of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors. “With four rail lines that span 73.1 miles and more than 200 bus routes at their disposal, more people are looking at Metro as a better commuting option.”

Approximately 15,000 passengers completed written questionnaires for the most recent of four surveys, which were conducted between Fall 2002 and Spring 2004. The surveys showed that the number of Metro Bus passengers with access to a car or truck for their surveyed trip grew from 21 percent to 26 percent. The number of Metro Rail passengers with access to a car or truck grew from 39 percent to 49 percent.

“In a telephone survey, we found that between the years 2000 and 2004 the number of L.A. County residents with access to a car had increased from 83 percent to 90 percent,” said John Catoe, Metro deputy chief executive officer. “Combined with our passenger surveys, the results tell us we’re doing a better job of capturing people who in the past would have spent their commute time behind the wheel.”

The surveys were conducted on a random basis during weekdays between 5 a.m. and 6 p.m. on all four Metro Rail lines (Red, Blue, Green and Gold), all directly operated Metro Bus lines and on three bus lines independently operated under contract to Metro, which represents 97 percent of Metro’s service.

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