



February 17, 2005

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Metro Holds Two Public Hearings in Lancaster and Palmdale to Determine Use of Transportation Funds**

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) will conduct public hearings in Lancaster and Palmdale to receive ideas and suggestions for meeting public transportation needs in the Antelope Valley.

The first public hearing will be held on Thursday, March 3, in Palmdale at the Palmdale Cultural Center, 38350 Palmdale Blvd (near Sierra Hwy & Palmdale Blvd) starting at 10 a.m.

A second public hearing will take place on Saturday, March 5 beginning at 10 a.m. in Lancaster at the Lancaster City Council Chambers, 44933 North Fern Avenue.

Article 8 of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) stipulates that a proportional share of the sales tax revenue be allocated to areas in the County that do not have Metro service. Article 8 applies to approximately 5 percent of the County population that resides in the Santa Clarita Valley, Antelope Valley and Santa Catalina Island.

TDA funds must be spent for public transit purposes when a legitimate need for transit service can be identified. However, if no "unmet transit needs" are found, sales tax revenue may be used for street and road purposes.

Each year, Metro holds public hearings in areas outside the Agency's service area to determine if any unmet transit needs exist. Following the hearings, and after receiving input from the Hearing Board and Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, Metro will decide whether there are unmet transit needs in the Antelope Valley.

Those unable to attend the hearing may submit written comments to Metro by April 5, 2005. Comments should be sent to Metro Article 8 Hearing Record, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012, Attention: Susan Richan (mail stop 99-23-3).

**METRO-022**