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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Metro, Automobile Club of Southern California, Metrolink team up
to help consumers beat high gasoline prices**

- Easy to remember and implement, strategy intended to make best use of regional transportation system while helping to mitigate spiraling fuel costs for consumers

PHOTOS: GAYLE ANDERSON



Faces of Transit - Metro CEO Roger Snoble, left, addresses news conference on benefits of public transit. Strategies to beat spiraling gas prices were presented by, from left, Jack Kyser, Chief Economist, L.A. County Economic Development Corporation; Steve Finnegan, Automobile Club of Southern California; Metrolink CEO David Solow, and Jackie Carter, a manager for Van Pool Services Inc. (VPSI).

Los Angeles County transportation officials have banded together to offer the public a new strategy to beat high gas prices.

Metro, the Automobile Club of Southern California and Metrolink announced Wednesday that consumers can reduce the impact of high gas prices on their wallets by adopting one or more of these easy steps:

1. Go Metro -For much less than a tank of gasoline, commuters can travel throughout Los Angeles County and beyond using the Metro and Metrolink systems. Metro has extra capacity, with 200 Metro Local and Metro Rapid Bus lines and 73 miles Metro Rail service throughout L.A. County. The agency has added service to more than 60 bus lines and is likewise expanding the Metro Rapid Bus network. New 45-foot and 60-foot buses will be able to carry more passengers. Bus service in the San Fernando Valley will be improved with the opening of the 14-mile Metro Orange Line later this year. Metrolink connects seamlessly with the Metro system, extending commuter rail service 500 miles through the five county area of Southern California.

2. Share the Ride - Southland carpoolers save an average of 36 minutes per day by using the region's more than 455 miles of freeway carpool lanes. Additionally, car and vanpoolers share driving costs, which can be reduced 50% or more depending on the number of rideshare participants. Drivers throughout Southern California can find a rideshare partner at Commutesmart.info.

3. Split Your Trip - Commuters may drive to one of 146 convenient Park & Ride lots around the county and board Express Buses to major employment centers. Bicycling to nearby Park & Ride lots, bus or rail stations is an excellent way to leave the car at home and get some exercise.

4. Bug Your Boss - Metro business pass programs make it easy for businesses, large and small, to offer transit passes as part of their employees' benefits package. Passes can be purchased with pre-tax dollars. Employees arrive on time, refreshed and ready to work. Metro also provides support and incentives for companies that

initiate car or vanpools.

5. **Start Online** - Drivers do not have to use a drop of gas to explore any of these options. Visit www.metro.net to plan bus or rail trips, join a carpool, find a Park & Ride lot, and purchase monthly Metro passes. 1-800-COMMUTE is also available for transit and rideshare information.

The Automobile Club of Southern California urges drivers to conserve when they drive. Use your household's most fuel-efficient vehicle as often as possible, consolidate your errands to reduce your mileage, and improve your mileage by emptying heavy items from your trunk and properly maintaining your car. Find additional gas saving driving tips at www.aaa.com.

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