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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro's Five Tips Help Angelenos Beat Record High Gas Prices

- **Thursday's record \$2.541 per gallon for regular unleaded gasoline renews concern for gas-saving alternatives, including public transit and carpooling**

With the price of regular unleaded gasoline hitting a record \$2.541 per gallon today, Metro, Los Angeles County's chief public transportation provider, reminds L.A. drivers that there are simple but effective ways to avoid being gouged at the pump.

AAA reports average Los Angeles-Long Beach fuel prices for regular, mid and premium grades of unleaded gasoline have reached \$2.541, \$2.705, and \$2.749 respectively. Metro urges Angelenos to begin using public transit, car or vanpools and express bus services to reduce the impact of escalating gas prices for cost-conscious drivers.

Metro's strategy can cut motorists' driving costs by half or more, depending on the ridesharing option chosen. Sharing the ride with public transit and carpools, for example, can normally cost between \$52 and \$71 per month, compared with solo driving, which can cost hundreds of dollars more per month. On a yearly basis, commuters who switch to public transportation, carpools or vanpools can save more than \$4,000 in commuting costs, according to a Metro cost comparison.

The strategy also encourages the public to investigate whether their employers can pay some or all of their commuting costs through a special business pass program established by Metro. Lastly, resources for planning public transit trips, purchasing passes and finding local rideshare partners are all available online, making it easier than ever for everyone to pursue commute alternatives.

"As the principal transportation provider for Los Angeles County, we have a responsibility to inform millions of residents about the many cost-effective alternatives to driving alone," said Roger Snoble, CEO of Metro. "These strategies are already saving countless commuters time and money. With both commuters and businesses impacted by higher gasoline prices, this strategy is a simple but effective remedy."

Metro's five ways to beat high gasoline prices are:

- **Go Metro** - For just \$3—about the cost of one gallon of gas—commuters can buy a Metro Day Pass and travel throughout Los Angeles County. Metro has 200 Local and Rapid lines and 73 miles of Metro Rail service throughout L.A. County. The agency has recently added service to more than 60 bus lines and is 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 enhanced with the opening of the 14-mile Metro Orange Line later this year. Separately-operated Metrolink trains connect seamlessly with the Metro system, extending commuter rail service 500 miles throughout Southern California. Use the Metro Trip Planner at metro.net to get started.
- **Share the Ride** - Southland carpools 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, reducing them by 50% or more depending on the number of rideshare participants. Drivers throughout Southern California can find a rideshare partner at ridematch.info.
- **Split Your Trip** - Drive less by using one of the county's 146 Park & Ride lots. You can meet your carpool partner there, or simply catch an Express to major employment centers. Bike there and you'll burn calories while saving cash. Locations are at commutesmart.info.

- **Bug Your Boss** - We can help your employer set up vanpools or even provide free transit passes for all employees. It has advantages for the company as well as for you. Call 213.922.2811 and one of our representatives will assist you.
- **Start Online** – The Web can help you plan bus or rail trips, join a carpool, find a Park & Ride lot, and purchase monthly Metro passes. Start at metro.net. 1-800-COMMUTE is also available for telephone transit and rideshare information.

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