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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro School Pool Program Makes It Easier for Parents to get Children to and from Campus this School Year

- Go Back to School by Carpool

Parents will have an easier, more convenient way of getting their children to and from school this fall. Metro's School Pool Program can give parents a much needed break by helping them find carpooling partners at participating elementary, middle and high school campuses throughout Los Angeles County.

Metro School Pool offers a free, voluntary and confidential matching service to parents interested in sharing driving responsibilities with other families in their neighborhoods. The agency maintains a comprehensive student carpool database and mapping system similar to its online commuter carpool matching system at www.commutessmart.info and provides lists directly to school administrators to share with participating parents.

The program is becoming increasingly attractive in light of record gasoline prices that are driving up commuting costs for families.

"In today's fast-paced world, it's often difficult to juggle a child's ride to school with the parent's busy work schedule," said David Sutton, Director of Metro Commute Services. "Sharing the ride to school can be a significant benefit for parents, who are now able to more flexibly manage their morning and afternoon schedules, freeing up time to take days off, meet other family obligations or run important errands."

Schools benefit as well because carpooling helps reduce traffic congestion near campus and makes the schools safer for everyone during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up periods.

The program is open to students in all participating public, private and charter elementary, middle and high schools. Parents are encouraged to ask their school administrators if the school can participate in the program. Parents can also work through their Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) to request that the school become part of Metro School Pool.

Participation is voluntary and parents share the task of driving students to and from school. Parents first fill out a survey for each child wishing to participate, indicating individual carpool preferences. They then return the survey to their school administrators, who will provide a confidential matchlist for potential carpool candidates closest to their home.

Parents can then contact families on the list to meet and establish carpooling arrangements, including pick-up and drop-off points, carpool

cost-sharing and driving responsibilities. Metro School Pool does not transport children to school.

Families that already carpool can enroll in the program to become eligible to participate in upcoming special events and promotions rewarding ridesharing families.

For information on the program or to sign up, parents should contact their local schools and complete a Metro School Pool survey. Schools interested in enrolling in the Metro School Pool program can call Metro Commute Services at 213-922-2811.

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