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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro Orange Line Safety Presentations Coming to More Than 100 San Fernando Valley Schools

- **Safety 1st at Metro**
- Nationally recognized Metro safety program shows kids and their parents how to stay safe near new Valley transitway

Metro and the Los Angeles Unified School District have partnered to deliver safety presentations to more than 100 schools within a 1.5-mile radius of the soon-to-open Metro Orange Line, bringing the agency's "Safety 1st" message to thousands of Valley school students, teachers and parents.

The safety program, which includes an animated video presentation, drives home the importance of obeying all signs, signals and street striping on the transitway, now scheduled to open Oct. 29. Sixty-foot, 30-ton Metro Liner buses are now being tested on the 14-mile alignment linking the North Hollywood Metro Red Line Station to Warner Center in Woodland Hills. The buses will provide access to many elementary, middle and high schools along the route.

Since the program began in September, Metro already has conducted 33 safety presentations, with an additional 28 scheduled by the transitway opening date. Forty-one additional schools will be given safety presentations following the opening. Of these 102 schools, 80 are elementary schools, 11 are middle schools and 15 are high schools.

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) assisted Metro in identifying and outreaching to the schools. LAUSD has sent Metro safety information to school administrators and encouraged them to participate in the free presentations.

"We're always interested in safe passage of our students to school, so this program dovetails well with our own safety training efforts," said Tana Ball, Director, School Safe Traffic Zone, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, LAUSD. "We are encouraging as many area schools as possible to take advantage of these excellent Metro safety presentations."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, whose supervisorial district includes portions of the San Fernando Valley, said "I applaud Metro and the LAUSD for working together to help keep our school children safe. Their joint effort reminds us that safety must come first in the communities surrounding the Metro Orange Line."

"Educating elementary school children on how to stay safe as passengers on the Metro Orange Line, and as pedestrians maneuvering around the station and railway can save lives," said Los Angeles City Councilmember Wendy Greuel. "I am grateful to Metro and LAUSD for making safety

awareness a priority for our community."

Metro has adapted its popular, nationally recognized Rail Safety Training Program expressly for the Metro Orange Line. A 20-minute presentation given by Metro safety representatives provides school children with an overview of the transitway and station intersections. Presenters show actual transitway photos and renderings, pointing out specific safety factors relating to each station. Safety guidelines are given for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

The presentation is followed by an eight-minute animated video entitled "Metro Orange Line Sensation" that is primarily intended for elementary school-age children. The video presentation tells of the adventures of several youngsters who utilize the Metro Orange Line for the very first time on their way across the San Fernando Valley to visit a friend. Youngsters demonstrate both safe and unsafe behaviors with new Metro Liner buses at stations and on the transitway in a fun, engaging manner. Following Metro's visit to the schools, copies of the video are left with each school's library for administrators to share with new groups of students.

Children have reacted enthusiastically to the presentations, especially the animated video, which is extremely popular with younger school kids. School children are often the first to embrace innovative technologies such as the new transitway and play an important part in transferring their knowledge about the line and the need for safety to their parents, siblings and others.

Metro regularly visits schools to teach about safety whenever the agency opens new transit service in Los Angeles County.

The agency's Rail Safety Operations training has now been expanded to include transitway safety, and Metro will be marshalling innovative technology such as the animated videos and mobile safety theater to drive home safety around Metro Bus and Rail services.

"With the addition of these hip videos and mobile safety theater, Metro has brought its safety materials into the 21st century," said Lynda Bybee, Deputy Executive Officer of Metro Community Relations. "We created our own safety outreach program from scratch, and it is now considered a benchmark for school-age safety training across the country."

Elements of Metro's Safety Program, including animated and live-action safety presentations and public service announcements, have received numerous industry awards. Transit agencies in New Jersey have licensed Metro's safety materials to use in their own safety presentations, and other transit agencies have expressed interested in licensing Metro's safety products.

For more information on the Metro Orange Line, visit metro.net/orange line.

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