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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Metro to Hold 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 hearing on Wednesday, December 7, will be held in Lancaster at the Lancaster City Council Chambers, 44933 North Fern Avenue, starting at 10:00 a.m.

Those unable to attend a morning hearing, a second hearing will be held in the afternoon the next day in Palmdale on Thursday, December 8, beginning at 2:00 p.m. The Palmdale meeting will be held at the Palmdale Cultural Center – Joshua Room, 38350 Sierra Highway (near Sierra Hwy & Palmdale Blvd). The hearings will be open for comment until the last speaker or two hours, whichever comes first.

Article 8 of the 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 December 23, 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).

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