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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Photo by Juan Ocampo



CEO Roger Snoble greets 2006 Tournament of Roses Queen Camille Clark and Royal Court on the Metro Gold Line, the transit of choice for all 2006 New Year's and Tournament of Roses festivities.

Rose Queen and Royal Court Ride Metro Gold Line, Urge Public to Utilize Public Transit for 2006 Rose Parade, Rose Bowl Game and Other Festivities

- Use of Metro Rail more important this year, with events spread over several days

The Tournament of Roses Queen and Court joined Metro officials at the soon-to-open Del Mar Station Transit Village in Pasadena to take their inaugural ride on the Metro Gold Line and encourage the public to "Go Metro" to attend all 2006 New Year's and Tournament of Roses festivities.

Metro Rail remains the quickest, easiest way to get in and out of Pasadena for all New Year's festivities, which will be spread over several days this year.

"The various Tournament of Roses festivities attract more than one million people," said Tournament of Roses President Libby Evans Wright. "We encourage everyone to make their travel as simple as possible by taking advantage of the convenient Metro service."

"Now in its third year of parade service, the Metro Gold Line has, itself, become a valuable part of the Tournament of Roses tradition, carrying tens of thousands of revelers to these world-class events every year," said Roger Snoble, Metro CEO. "All of us at Metro will do everything we can to provide the best transit service to the public so all may enjoy these marquee events."

To promote public safety, Metro will be providing free rides on all Metro

buses and trains starting at 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24, through Christmas Day, December 25, ending at midnight. The agency is also providing free rides on New Year's Eve, December 31, beginning at 9 p.m. through New Year's Day, January 1, ending again at midnight.

The 117th Rose Parade will take place the day after New Year's on Monday, Jan. 2, 2006. Metro will be operating both the Metro Gold Line and Metro Red Line all night Sunday to enable parade goers to get an early place along the parade route. Parade goers can choose to use one of four train stations in Pasadena: Memorial Park and Del Mar stations are about two blocks from the parade route; the Lake and Allen stations are approximately four blocks from the parade route.

Parking is available at several Metro Gold Line Stations, including Sierra Madre Villa (950 free and reserve spaces), Del Mar (600 paid spaces), Fillmore (131 free and reserve spaces), Heritage Square/Arroyo (145 free spaces), Lincoln Heights/Cypress Park (91 free spaces) and Union Station (2,000+ paid spaces).

The public may view post-parade floats at Victory Park, corner of Washington and Sierra Madre Boulevards in Pasadena January 2 and 3. Revelers can take the Metro Gold Line to Sierra Madre Villa Station in East Pasadena, where they can board shuttle buses from the Bus Plaza on the first level, which will take them directly to Victory Park. Shuttles will depart from Sierra Madre Villa from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. January 2 and from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. January 3. Regular fares will apply.

Alternately, spectators can ride their bikes to the park and utilize a bicycle valet parking center provided by Bicycle Frontiers for a suggested \$2.50 donation. The service will be available at the park entrance on Sierra Madre Boulevard a few yards from the corner with Paloma Street.

Food aficionados may also utilize the Metro Gold Line to participate in the Pasadena Food Bowl on Colorado Boulevard in Old Pasadena January 3 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission is free and will include music, entertainment and arts festival.

This year the 92nd Rose Bowl Game, hosting the BCS National Championship between the USC Trojans and the Texas Longhorns, is scheduled for 5 p.m. kick-off on Wednesday, January 4. Sports fans attending this game can avoid high parking fees by utilizing the Metro Gold Line. Fans can exit at Memorial Park Station and walk a short distance down Holly Street to the Parsons parking lot at 100 West Walnut Street to catch a free game shuttle starting at 11 a.m.

Metro does not allow eating, drinking or smoking on board Metro trains or buses. To ensure public safety, Metro prohibits the following items from being brought on board the Metro Bus or Rail system: flammable products, barbecues and oversized items such as ladders, umbrellas, tents, chairs and coolers.

Attending parade festivities is easy using the \$3 Metro Day Pass. Passes can be used for traveling on both Metro Bus and Rail and are valid from the time of purchase until 3 a.m. the next day. Tickets can be purchased on board Metro Buses or at ticket vending machines at Metro Rail stations.

To obtain specific timetable information, visit WWW.METRO.NET or call 1-800-C-O-M-M-U-T-E.

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