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Omni Hotel is Latest and Largest to Enroll in Metro's Employer Pass Program

The Omni Los Angeles Hotel at California Plaza in downtown Los Angeles is the latest and largest company to enroll in Metro's convenient Business Transit Access Pass (B-TAP) program. And it did so in a big way. All 220 of its full-time employees received annual passes, which will make commuting to work easier, more economical and, in many cases, faster. The passes are good for a year of unlimited travel on all Metro buses and trains.

"With rising gas prices, this seemed like the responsible thing to do," said Bob Graney, Omni General Manager. "And we're already seeing the benefits. Our associates are rested, more relaxed and ready to start the workday. Omni believes in the balance between family and work and by partnering with Metro in the Employer Pass Program, we're showing that commitment in a tangible way."

When the Omni management team last year began exploring constructive ways to improve its employee benefits plan, they found Metro's Employer Pass Program offered them a tax advantage. In addition, it was so easy to implement, it is already up and running and winning the raves of its riders, Graney said.

B-TAP is one of three pass programs offered by Metro. It was designed exclusively for businesses wanting to offer annual transit passes as part of benefits packages. The passes provide a strong incentive for employees who might not otherwise use public transit. They also hold great promise for helping to reduce single passenger commuting on Los Angeles County's clogged streets and freeways.

With B-Tap, businesses have the flexibility to choose how the passes are paid for. The company may elect to subsidize part or all of the cost, to take advantage of the tax benefit, and/or allow employees to pay the cost through payroll deduction.

The other passes available are Metro's Institutional Pass Program, for large organizations such as colleges, universities and trade schools, and A-TAP, or Annual Transit Pass Program, which allows businesses to provide annual passes for only those employees who currently take Metro transit to work. This program can be attractive for companies with fewer numbers of employees; four employees being the minimum.

Businesses interested in adding the TAP program to their benefits package can call Metro's Commute Services Department at 213-922-5669. Or they can visit www.metro.net for more information.

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