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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro Orange Line Weekend Ridership Set a Record in July

- Average weekday boardings also remain strong

By DAVE SOTERO

(Aug. 16, 2006) Weekend ridership on the Metro Orange Line reached a new record in July, with an average of 12,813 Saturday boardings and 10,428 Sunday boardings.

Since December 2005, Saturday ridership has risen from about 9,500 boardings, while Sunday boardings have climbed from about 7,300.

Overall, the Orange Line continues to experience strong ridership, with 20,760 average weekday boardings as of July 2006. The service set a ridership record in May 2006, when average weekday boardings reached 21,828.

Metro anticipates ridership will continue its strong pace in September with the return of students traveling to and from school.

"The strong weekday and weekend ridership on the Metro Orange Line demonstrates how strategically important this service is for all of our customers," said Richard Hunt, general manager of the San Fernando Valley Service Sector. "It doesn't just benefit workday commuters – it's also a great way to travel across the Valley on weekends for recreation, shopping and other personal trips."

In a Metro Orange Line survey conducted earlier this year, 31 percent of respondents indicated that they used the line to travel to destinations other than work, such as medical appointments, shopping and recreation.

The survey also found the Orange Line attracted a large percentage of new and discretionary riders. Thirty-two percent were either new riders or riders who had used Metro for less than a year, while about 37 percent said they had a car available for their trip.

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• **Editor's Note:** Metro is the proper name in referring to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of Los Angeles County. For the past three years Metro has been changing all its signage and other materials to reflect the name change. If you need a current Metro logo, please call Metro Media Relations at (213) 922-2700.

