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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Go Metro to the Hollywood Christmas Parade Nov. 26

Video

'Tis the season to avoid traffic hassles and go Metro to the 75th Hollywood Christmas parade Sunday, Nov. 26.

George Lopez will serve as Grand Marshal, Regis Philbin has been named Diamond Jubilee Honorary Grand Marshal and teen pop artist Brooke Hogan and heartthrob Michael Bolton will perform during the parade. Other celebrity appearances include Isaiah Washington, Shawn and Marlon Wayans and the cast of the film "High School Musical."

It will be a star-studded evening of floats, bands and celebrities. And it's the perfect opportunity to take the Metro Red Line direct to the parade route and avoid the price of parking and traffic hassles. Metro buses are also a great way to access the parade.

Arrive in Hollywood an hour or two before the parade to get a great spot for watching. The parade will run from 5 to 7 p.m. but crowds begin assembling by 3 p.m. Metro Rail has two subway stops at prime parade viewing locations at Hollywood/Highland and Hollywood/Vine.

If taking the train to the parade, buy round-trip tickets before the event. Metro Rail ticket vending machines at stations in the Hollywood area are customarily busy afterward.

On Sunday, avoid Hollywood Boulevard, Vine Street, Highland Avenue and Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, which will close beginning at 2 p.m. in preparation for the parade and remain closed until 10 p.m. The 2.3-mile route starts near the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Orange (in front of Grauman's Chinese Theatre), then heads east on Hollywood Boulevard to Vine Street where it turns right (south) on Vine to Sunset Boulevard. It turns right (west) on Sunset and returns west to Orange, ending up in front of Hollywood High School.

The cash fare is \$1.25 one-way and \$3 for an all-day pass, which is the best buy for those using a combination of Metro Bus and Metro Rail lines, including the Metro Orange Line, the Metro Gold Line from Pasadena, the Metro Blue Line from Long Beach or the Metro Green Line from El Segundo and Norwalk to connect with the Metro Red Line for the trip to Hollywood. As usual, there will be reduced fares for students and seniors.

Metro will add extra cars to all Metro Red Line trains on parade day. Prior to the parade, trains will operate every 12 minutes to Hollywood from downtown Los Angeles and from the San Fernando Valley. Following the parade, trains will depart the Hollywood area every 12 minutes. Service will begin operating every 20 minutes at approximately 9 p.m.

The last train to the San Fernando Valley will depart Hollywood/Vine at 12:36 a.m. and Hollywood/Highland at 12:38 a.m. It will connect with the last Metro Orange Line bus to leave North Hollywood at 12:56 a.m. The last train to downtown, connecting to the Metro Blue Line, will depart Hollywood/Highland at 12:22 a.m. and Hollywood/Vine at 12:24 a.m. The last train to downtown (no connection with the Metro Blue Line) will depart Hollywood/Highland at 1:02 a.m. and Hollywood/Vine at 1:04 a.m.

Parade attendees using Metro Bus service should plan trips according to Sunday schedules. Additional buses will supplement lines servicing the Hollywood area as needed. Those Metro Bus Lines providing access to this year's parade route include Metro Lines: 2, 26, 156, 163, 180, 181, 210, 212 and 217.

Due to parade route and street closure, Metro will re-route 9 bus lines in the Hollywood area. The lines to be detoured are 2, 26, 156, 163, 180, 181, 210, 212 and 217. Detours will begin at about 2 p.m. on Sunday and last until the conclusion of the parade.

For specific Metro routes and schedules visit www.metro.net or call 1-800-C-O-M-M-U-T-E. For more information on the parade, consult www.hollywoodchristmasparade.org or at the parade's MySpace page at www.myspace.com/christmasparade .

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