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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Feature on metro.net Gives Public 'Real Time Traffic' Info for Los Angeles Area Freeways, Streets

One of the most comprehensive online real-time traffic information service ever offered to the public made its debut today on metro.net.

The Metro Real Time Traffic feature provides free 24/7 traffic updates on freeways in Los Angeles and Ventura counties as well as for major streets in the City of Los Angeles. The data, fed by Caltrans, CHP and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, is updated every few minutes. It comes from cameras overlooking the freeways as well as electronic sensors embedded in the roadways.

Within a year, Real Time Traffic will extend its traffic coverage to include Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Currently, commuters link to traffic updates for those counties from the Real Time Traffic page.

Besides giving real time speeds for freeways and streets – including carpool lane speeds for comparison -- web users can see what's displayed on freeway message signs and check out views from freeway cameras. They also can click on icons that will pinpoint freeway incidents such as accidents or track freeway construction closures. Map features allow viewers to zoom in and out, and the system also will memorize a particular street or freeway location so someone can go right to it anytime.

The information is displayed on Metro's Internet homepage – metro.net - where the public can find ways to beat traffic by checking out public transit alternatives with Metro's 24/7 trip planner and other rideshare options such as carpooling. As a measure of the interest in finding driving alternatives, metro.net already receives 40 million viewer hits a month. That number is expected to increase sharply with the new Metro Real Time Traffic feature.

Metro – named North America's top transportation agency of 2006 by the American Public Transportation Association – prides itself on harnessing technology to better serve the public.

Metro now has an animated global positioning map displayed on monitors inside the buses that show riders real time location of their bus.

Data loops embedded in local streets enable Metro Rapid to gain signal priority to help make those buses about 25 percent faster than local service. And Metro has purchased almost 2,400 clean operating compressed natural gas buses, the largest alternative fueled bus fleet in North America.

For more information, go to metro.net or call 1-800 commute.

Metro-218