

February 9, 2007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro to Offer 50-cent Fares on 18 Bus Lines for One Full Week Effective Sunday, February 18

- Try 'The Best For Less' – More Than 50 Major Destinations Served

For an entire week in February, the public will be invited to try out selected Metro bus lines by riding at a savings of more than half off regular fares. From Feb. 18 through 24, 18 lines serving more than 50 destinations will offer one-way fares slashed to 50 cents per ride, down dramatically from the usual \$1.25 one-way fare.

These 18 lines serve more than 50 major destination points throughout Los Angeles County including job centers, schools and universities, hospitals, shopping centers, museums, community centers and transportation hubs.

"We want LA's single passenger vehicle users to try our Metro services because they offer a great alternative to driving and make commuting throughout the city a lot easier," said Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who introduced the promotional idea at a recent Metro Board meeting. "It is our hope that people will realize how much time and money they actually save and how much added convenience they receive by using our services."

Public transportation use can cut annual household expenses by an average \$6,200 -- more than the average household pays for food for an entire year, according to a new study commissioned by the American Public Transportation Association.

"Even amidst Los Angeles' ever-worsening traffic problem, there are millions of people who have never tried public transportation – either our buses or our rail system," said Metro CEO Roger Snoble. "Metro was recently named 'America's Best Public Transportation System' and we hope that this reduced fare week will encourage those who live and work in Los Angeles to check us out and try a different approach to commuting."

The lines selected are in areas sprinkled throughout the county to encourage the greatest number of riders to sample the system. In Metro's Gateway Cities sector (including cities from Long Beach to Montebello) the discounted Metro lines will be 102 (Crenshaw - South Gate via Jefferson Bl. and Coliseum St.), 265 (Lakewood - Montebello via Paramount Bl.), 275 (Cerritos - Whittier via Artesia Bl, Valley View Av & Carmenita Rd) and the 577X Metro Express (Long Beach - El Monte via 22 Fwy, I 605 & I-10 Fwy).

In the South Bay area the Metro lines will be 550 (San Pedro - Carson/Vermont - West Hollywood Express), 127 (Downey - Compton via Bellflower Bl, Somerset Bl, Compton Bl), 202 (Willowbrook - Compton - Wilmington), 209 (Athens - Wilshire Center via Van Ness Ave & Arlington Ave) and 305 (Crosstown Bus: UCLA/Westwood - Imperial/Wilmington Station Limited).

In the San Fernando Valley the Metro lines will be 154 (Tarzana - Burbank via Burbank Bl & Oxnard St), 168 (Chatsworth - San Fernando), 233 (Lakeview Terrace - Van Nuys Bl) and 761 (Van Nuys Bl - Westwood/UCLA).

San Gabriel Valley lines selected are 177 (La Canada - Sierra Madre Villa via I-210 & California Bl & Walnut St), 201 (Glendale - Koreatown via Silver Lake) and 258 (Alhambra - Paramount via Fremont Av & Eastern Av).

In the Westside Central area, the lines will be 214 (Artesia Transit Center - Broadway/Main St. Loop - Harbor Freeway Station) and 220 (West Hollywood - Culver City via Robertson Bl).

The 18 Metro Bus lines were selected to represent services provided in Metro's five service sectors and crisscross the entire county in an effort to offer everyone an opportunity to sample Metro's services at a reduced price and a fraction of the cost of driving solo.

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

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