



Metrolink: The Next Generation

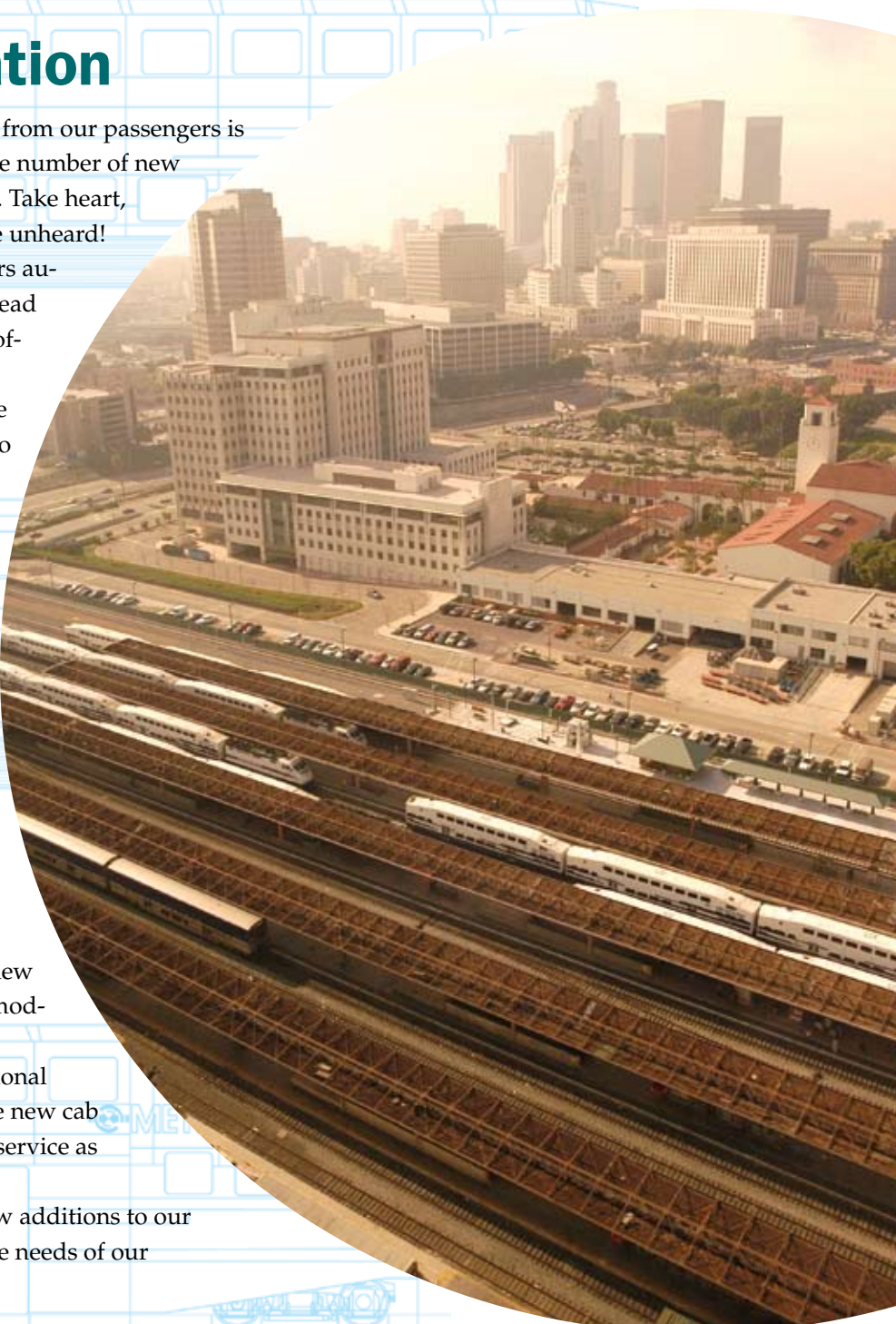
One of the most frequent requests heard from our passengers is for more train cars to accommodate the large number of new riders we have seen over the past few years. Take heart, faithful Metrolink riders! You have not gone unheard!

Recently, the Metrolink Board of Directors authorized the manufacture of 87 brand-new lead passenger or "cab" cars, including 33 state-of-the-art cab cars that will incorporate Crash Energy Management (CEM) technology. The new CEM cab cars will be better equipped to absorb and distribute impact forces in the unlikely event of a collision. Metrolink will be the first commuter-rail operator in the United States to use vehicles equipped with CEM technology.

The first of these next-generation cab cars will be delivered to Metrolink for testing in September 2008. Because of the cutting-edge design of the new cars, Metrolink will conduct three months of extensive tests and inspections to ensure that the cars are fully operational and that all systems on board are working properly before the new cars are put into service. After they pass inspection and testing, the new CEM-equipped cab cars will replace older-model cab cars that are currently in use.

Metrolink will also be ordering an additional 54 coach cars to carry passengers behind the new cab cars. Older-model cab cars will continue in service as trailing coach cars.

Metrolink is very excited about these new additions to our rail-car fleet that will help us meet the future needs of our growing ridership.



Inside Metrolink: New Plans for Sealed Corridors

Railroad Terms of the Month

Grade Crossing: An intersection of a railroad track and another track, a road, walkways, etc., at the same level.

Right-of-Way: The strip of land acquired for use by a railroad for tracks.*

Metrolink is constantly making improvements aimed at protecting our passengers as well as motorists and pedestrians throughout Southern California. Grade-crossing improvements are a priority, and we have invested more than \$70 million to date in projects to enhance grade-crossing safety.

As part of these efforts, Metrolink recently announced an

innovative new grade-crossing safety-enhancement plan in the City of Simi Valley. The plan targets 57 crossings along 65 miles of track on Metrolink's Ventura County and Antelope Valley lines using a sealed-corridor approach to restrict access to the right-of-way along the entire stretch of the track. Several improvements are planned to enhance rail-crossing safety, including the installation of four quadrant crossing gates, longer gate arms, Z-shaped pedestrian crossings, median separators on the streets, locked gates, and additional fencing.

Sealed-corridor planning has been used successfully in other parts of the country. Metrolink will be the first commuter-rail agency to apply these methods to a densely populated urban setting with high volumes of street and rail traffic.

** Both definitions from Random House Unabridged Dictionary, Copyright 1997.*

Great Train Adventure

Last weekend, my mom and I took the best trip ever to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach! Recently, in my sixth-grade science class, we were learning about ocean life. I was talking to my mom about what I had learned in class, and she suggested that we go and visit the aquarium!

Mom didn't want to drive through all the weekend traffic, so she decided we would take Metrolink. We headed out early Saturday morning to the San Bernardino Station to catch the Metrolink train to Los Angeles Union Station, and then used our Metrolink tickets for a free transfer to the Metro Red Line subway and Metro Blue Line light rail. The Metro Blue Line stops at First Street and Pine Avenue in Long Beach, where we caught the Long Beach Passport shuttle for a free ride to the Aquarium of the Pacific.

When we first arrived at the aquarium, we were greeted by a full-scale model of a blue whale, the world's largest animal! There was also an enormous tank where we saw playful seals, sea lions, and moon jellies. After that, Mom and I headed upstairs to visit the icy waters of the northern Pacific, where we saw puffins, diving birds, sea otters, and giant spider crabs. To finish off our day at the aquarium, we took the one-hour behind-the-scenes tour, where we learned how the people at the aquarium keep the animals healthy and happy.

We caught the free shuttle back to the Metro Blue Line and started our trip back to San Bernardino. We had so much fun talking about all the exciting things we saw at the aquarium. I can't wait to see where our next adventure takes us on the Metrolink train!

For more information about Metrolink weekend schedules, destinations, and transfers, please call Metrolink at (800) 371-LINK (5465) or go to www.metrolinktrains.com. For Metro schedules and maps, see www.metro.net. Visit www.aquariumofpacific.org for more information on the Aquarium of the Pacific.



Safety Matters

What should you do if your vehicle stalls or gets stuck on the railroad tracks?

Decide now what you will do so that you won't panic if this situation ever occurs. If your car stalls or is trapped at a highway-rail crossing or on the railroad tracks, there is only one thing to do: **GET OUT!** Get yourself and your passengers out immediately, even if you do not see a train approaching.

If a train is approaching, run toward the train and away from the track at a 45-degree angle. Do not run in the direction the train is traveling, because any debris from the train striking a vehicle may come towards you.

All highway-rail grade crossings are identified by a unique Department of Transportation (DOT) crossing-identification number and crossing location (e.g., Milk St. or Temple St.), and are required to have an emergency telephone number posted nearby. The DOT identification number consists of six digits followed by a letter, such as DOT 178809S, and can be used to pinpoint your location. This number can be found on the signal house (a small metal equipment shed near every crossing), signal post, or fencing adjacent to the crossing.

As soon as you and your passengers are out of the vehicle and positioned at a safe distance from the crossing, call the emergency number. No problem is too small; call the posted emergency telephone number, giving the DOT number or crossing location, if there is any chance that your stalled vehicle could be struck by a train.

If you cannot locate the emergency telephone number, you can call 911 or a local law-enforcement agency.

Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day

MetroLink is proud to once again take part in National Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day by allowing parents to bring their children on MetroLink trains free of charge on Thursday, April 27.

National Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day was launched in April 2003 to encourage both boys and girls to reach their full potential by participating fully in family, work, and community events. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to work to expose them to future opportunities in the workplace and stimulate discussion about the importance of balancing work and family.

MetroLink asks that riders follow these guidelines:

- Passengers with any type of valid MetroLink fare may participate.
- Each fare-paying adult may bring up to three children (ages 18 or younger) at no additional charge.
- Transfers for children riding free are not available. If you connect to another mode of public transportation such as a bus or the Metro Red Line subway, please purchase a ticket for each child from the appropriate transit provider. Metro allows two children under age 5 to travel free with each fare-paying adult on bus or rail.
- This offer is only available on April 27, 2006.

For further information about the fare exemptions on April 27, call MetroLink at (800) 371-LINK (5465). To find out more about Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day, see www.daughtersandsonstowork.org



Meet MetroLink's Board Members

Council Member Frank West

Frank West is a member of the Moreno Valley City Council, representing Council District 3. He was elected in 1996, 2000, and 2004. West was selected by his fellow council members to serve as mayor of Moreno Valley in 1999 and 2004.

West is a long-time resident of Moreno Valley. He graduated from Moreno Valley High School, Riverside Community College, and the University of California at Riverside. He coached youth sports for 10 years and served as the director of the Diamond Girls Softball Association. In 1992, he was elected to the Moreno Valley School Board; he served for four years.

Professionally, West served as a Riverside County probation officer for 30 years before retiring in 2004.



Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa inaugurates FlyAway service from Union Station to LAX in a ceremony attended by MetroLink CEO David Solow and Metro CEO Roger Snoble. For FlyAway schedule and pricing, visit www.metrolinktrains.com or call (800) 371-LINK (5465).

Bridge to the Future

Orange County and Inland Empire-Orange County (IEOC) line passengers might have noticed the construction under way at the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center, a multi-modal transit facility that also serves as an Amtrak station. The \$8.4 million renovation project, funded by the State Public Transportation Account and the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) local Measure M funds, includes a new pedestrian bridge and platform, which eliminates the need to walk across the railroad tracks between platforms.

When the new pedestrian bridge opens, passengers will be provided direct access from the station to a new platform currently under construction. This new platform will feature several covered waiting areas with benches, a ticket-vending machine, a ticket validator, and a walkway to Santa Ana Boulevard. Towers on each side of the bridge will include an elevator and stairway, and will be themed to match the station building. The existing center platform will be removed, and a fence will be installed between the tracks to close off pedestrian access to the track area. Look for these improvements to be completed by summer 2006.

Later this year, construction will begin on a pedestrian underpass at the Montclair Station on the San Bernardino Line and an extension of the platform at the East

Ontario Station on the Riverside Line. MetroLink wants to thank passengers for their patience during these construction projects.

For more information please call (800) 371-LINK (5465).



Station City News

Upland—Upland’s Second Avenue Farmers’ Market will open April 6, and will be open from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. every Thursday night through October 26. It will be free to the public, and feature fun, food, rides, vendors, and entertainment. For more information on the Second Avenue Farmers’ Market or the ninth annual Upland Lemon Festival (April 28–30), contact Main Street Upland at (909) 949-4499.

Lancaster—The 15th annual California Poppy Festival will hit Lancaster with two days of top-name musical entertainment, crafts and fine-arts vendors, a flower and farmers’ market, aerospace and aviation displays, and much more. Get up close and personal with nearly 200 wild animals. The California Poppy Festival will take place in Lancaster City Park from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., April 22 and 23. For more information, visit www.poppyfestival.com or call (661) 723-6077.



Riverside—Look to the skies in Riverside as March Air Reserve Base (ARB) will once again host AirFest air show, the “Thunder Over the Empire,” on Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30.

The weekend promises to be filled with exciting air acts by military performance teams such as the world famous United States Air Force

Thunderbird F-16 Demonstration Team, who will be performing impossible acts of high speed acrobatics. Also scheduled are the Air Force Academy Wings of Blue precision parachute team and the F-16 Viper West Demonstration Team. Also on display will be the Moving Wall, a scale replica of the Washington D.C. Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial.



AirFest is open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission and parking are free. For more information, driving directions, or schedule of entertainment, visit www.marchfieldairfest.com

Covina—Spend a fun day with Radio Disney at IKEA Covina to celebrate Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 pm. Enjoy free hands-on seed planting, music, crafts, games and other fun activities. Got the shopping bug? IKEA is offering 10% discount on home delivery for any purchases made that day with proof of valid Metrolink fare. From Covina Metrolink Station, transfer free to Foothill #281 (Puente Hills Mall) at Front Street to Workman/2nd Street. Bus departs 25 minutes after the hour. Visit www.IKEA-usa.com/covina or call (626) 732-4532.

STOMP. See what all the noise is about!

STOMP is explosive, provocative, sophisticated, unique, and appealing to audiences of all ages. The international percussion sensation has garnered an armful of awards and rave reviews, and has appeared on numerous national television shows. The eight-member troupe uses everything but conventional percussion instruments—matchboxes, wooden poles, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, hubcaps—to fill the stage with magnificent rhythms. As *USA Today* says, “STOMP finds beautiful noises in the strangest places.”

For a chance to win one of five pairs of tickets to opening night at the Pantages Theater on Tuesday, May 9, 2006, at 8:00 p.m., simply fill out the entry form below and mail it by April 21, 2006, to *Metrolink Matters*, STOMP Contest, 700 S. Flower Street, Suite 2600, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

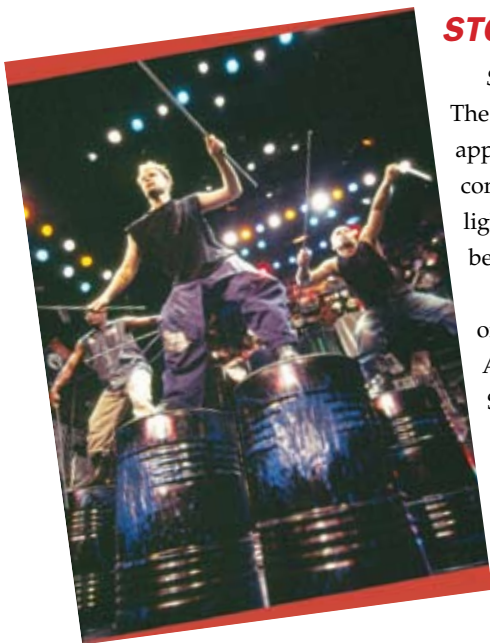
Phone Number: _____

All winners will be contacted by phone.

METROLINK MATTERS

Editor-in-Chief: Paul Sitkoff
 Contributors: Charlene Ariza, Anja Magnani, Colleen Richter and Denise Tyrrell
 Designer: Harlan West/HWDS
 Writing Consultants: Rogers & Associates
 C.E.O.: David Solow
 Director, Communications and Development: Steve Lantz
 Manager, External Communications: Francisco Oaxaca
 Send comments or story ideas to metrolinkmatters@scrra.net or to Metrolink Matters
 700 S. Flower St., Suite 2600
 Los Angeles, CA 90017.

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