



Metrolink News and Events



# Metrolink Fare Increase

On July 1, 2006, Metrolink will increase fares by an average of 5.5 percent. The increase will affect the cost of some trips more than others because of the ongoing fare-restructuring plan that began in 2004.

Metrolink, like everyone in California, has been affected by rising gas prices. With a weekly use of nearly 120,000 gallons, Metrolink is a fairly large consumer of diesel fuel. The trains you ride consume a special blend of ultralow-sulfur fuel that burns much cleaner than standard diesel, making it the best choice for our environment, however, it is produced by only a limited number of refiners, which makes it more expensive than the fuel at your local gas station. Every five-cent increase in the price of fuel results in a \$300,000 increase in the annual costs to operate Metrolink train service. Fuel for the next fiscal year is estimated to cost almost \$4 million more than the current year's fuel.

As a public agency, a portion of Metrolink's operating costs come from taxes in the form of contributions made by the five county transportation agencies that support Metrolink. Each Metrolink passenger only generates sufficient revenue to cover about 44 percent of the cost to carry him or her on our trains. The remainder comes from other sources such as fees paid by Amtrak and freight-train operators who use our tracks. During the next fiscal year, the county transportation agencies that fund Metrolink will increase their contribution by 11.8 percent in order to limit the necessary fare increase to 5.5 percent.



## Inside Metrolink: Why Wye?

### Railroad Term of the Month

**Wye:** *An arrangement of tracks in the shape of the letter y (or a triangle) that can be used to turn a train completely around. This track arrangement allows a turn similar to a three-point turn done with an automobile (i.e., turning from a street into a driveway and then backing out in the opposite direction before proceeding in the new direction).*



Metrolink has used a “push-pull” method to operate its trains since the service began in 1992. In a push-pull operation, trains operate with a locomotive in the front pulling the train or in the rear trailing the train.

When the locomotive is in the rear, the engineer sits in a “control cab” in the front of the lead passenger car (called a cab car)

to control the train. The control cab section contains all of the same controls found in a locomotive. Push-pull was developed for worldwide use as an appropriate alternative to locomotive-only operations. It has proven to be very safe all over the world.

Since the tragic derailment of two Metrolink trains in January 2005, some have suggested eliminating push-pull passenger-train operations by “wyeing” (turning each train around when necessary so that a locomotive is always pulling) as a potentially safer alternative. A July 1, 2005, analysis by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) concluded that, based on available information, there is nothing to justify this alternative. Unless wyes or loop tracks already

exist in very close proximity to current turnaround points, buying property to construct new facilities is not practical because a significant amount of land would be required for each turnaround point.

Consider Los Angeles’ Dodger Stadium as a frame of reference to illustrate the amount of land required to create these facilities: A loop track with minimum safe-turning radiuses that would allow a train set with a locomotive to easily turn around would require the entire stadium area and most of its parking lots. In addition, several new railroad crossings at each new loop or wye would be created, all of them requiring crossing bells and the sounding of train horns, which would further impact neighboring communities. Traffic at each new crossing would be delayed, since each train in the wye would be restricted to a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour. More than a dozen wyes or loops would need to be constructed to accommodate trains that do not travel to the end of a line. Some would have to be constructed on private freight lines used by Metrolink trains.

Because of the time it takes to wye a train, passengers would see a reduction in the number of trains Metrolink could operate per day. According the same July 2005 FRA analysis of push-pull and multiple-unit (self-propelled-car) train operations, prohibiting push-pull operations would mean that on any given weekday, nearly 950,000 passengers nationwide “would have to find an alternate, and probably less safe, means of transportation.” But, most importantly, this option would do nothing to prevent collisions between trains and vehicles.

## Great Train Adventure

My grandmother’s birthday was coming up, and I had no idea what to get for her. I was talking to my friend Sarah, and we decided to go to the Jewelry District in downtown Los Angeles to buy Grandma a bracelet. I asked my mom if she would take us downtown, and she suggested we all take the Metrolink to avoid the weekend traffic.

My mom and I live in San Bernardino and Sarah lives in Lancaster, so we coordinated our train schedules to arrive at Los Angeles Union Station around the same time; we all arrived around 8:30 a.m. From the station, we transferred to a Metro bus that dropped us off in the heart of the Jewelry District, and off we went to find the perfect bracelet for my grandmother!

My mom, Sarah, and I had so much fun browsing and trying on beautiful jewelry. After looking at several stores, we found the perfect silver bracelet for my grandmother. We continued to walk around for the rest of the afternoon, and finished our wonderful day with an incredible lunch before heading back to Union Station for the ride home.



I can’t wait until my mom’s birthday, so I can go back to the Jewelry District with Sarah and my dad to buy her a beautiful gift as well.

For more information about weekend schedules, destinations, and transfers, please call Metrolink at (800) 371-LINK (5465) or visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com). For more information on the LA Jewelry District, visit [www.lajd.com](http://www.lajd.com).



**All Together Now!**

Have your own "Great Train Adventure"! Did you know that Metrolink offers discounts for large groups and school class trips? Take Students Run LA (SRLA), for example; SRLA is an innovative after-school intervention program that helps mentor and train at-risk middle- and high-school students in the greater Los Angeles area to run in the Los Angeles Marathon. Using Metrolink's group fares, 16 SRLA participants rode from San Bernardino to the L.A. Marathon Expo. Metrolink was proud to serve SRLA's participants this year, and we look forward to cheering on the program and its runners for many marathons to come!

Are you organizing a group trip and looking for a convenient, cost-efficient way to travel? Metrolink might be the answer you're looking for! We offer both school- and recreational-group travel packages at discounted rates. For school trips, the Metrolink fare is only \$3 per passenger, regardless of age. To organize a school trip,

you must have 15 or more students riding the train.

For recreational trips, the fare is only \$7 per passenger, regardless of age, for groups of up to 50 people (with a 10-person minimum).

For more information on group-travel packages or to make reservations, please contact Metrolink at (800) 371-LINK (5465).



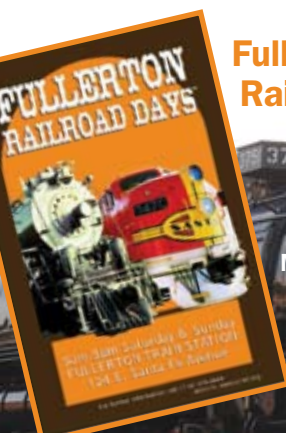
*Even the Red Hat Ladies take Metrolink.*

**Fullerton Railroad Days**

The Fullerton Transportation Center and Metrolink Station will come alive with the sights and sounds of trains as Fullerton Railroad Days arrive on May 6 and 7. Railroad buffs, an open-air collectors' market, and lots of delicious food vendors will celebrate everything "train."

Tour antique rail cars, working freight equipment, and model railroad exhibits. The E.P. Ripley steam engine, direct from the Disneyland Railroad, will be on display both days. Metrolink will offer tours of a commuter train, courtesy of the Olson Company.

Visit [www.scrmf.org/rdays](http://www.scrmf.org/rdays) for more information about Fullerton Railroad Days. Visit the Olson Company at [www.theolsonco.com](http://www.theolsonco.com) for more information about the new Fullerton SOCO Walk, a transit-oriented development.



**Orange County Weekend Service**

**Saturday and Sunday service is coming to the Orange County Line this spring! Take a trip to the beach in Oceanside or ride up to Los Angeles for the day. Metrolink Orange County Line monthly passes and 10-trip tickets will be valid for travel on the new service. Watch for more details in next month's Metrolink Matters.**



**Urban Bikers**

It's time to dust off those bike helmets and get ready to ride! More than 100,000 Californians are expected to ride their bikes to work and leave their cars at home during the 12th annual California Bike Commute Week from May 15 to 19. LA County's official Bike to Work Day is Thursday, May 18, when cyclists can enjoy a free ride aboard buses of the Metro Bus Line, Antelope Valley Transit Authority, Beach Cities Transit, Commerce Municipal Bus Line, and Montebello Bus Lines.

California Bike Commute Week includes several regional Bike to Work Day events held throughout California, and is held in conjunction with the American Lung Association's Clean Air Month. During this week, residents are encouraged to ride their bikes because it reduces traffic, promotes a cleaner environment and an overall healthier lifestyle. Many buses are equipped with bike racks, and most rail stations contain bike parking. Bicycle commuting is a great alternative to driving, especially for those who live within five miles of their work or school. Residents who have longer commutes can bicycle to the nearest bus stop or rail station, hop on the bus or train, and enjoy a relaxing ride the rest of the way.



Metro is also planning exciting activities throughout LA County, such as local pit stops, where cyclists can stop to relax and receive free prizes. Metro also encourages employers participate, and will provide them with a "party in a box" containing balloons, streamers, and giveaway items to support their Bike Commute Week events.

To find out more about how to start cycling on Bike to Work Day, receive a free bicycle patch kit (while supplies last), and enjoy related fun activities around LA County, please visit [www.metro.net](http://www.metro.net).

## Station City News

**Los Angeles**—The California Science Center is hosting the Marvel Super Heroes Science Exhibition now through September 4, 2006. Engaging and interactive experiences will encourage visitors to learn about real-life science and technology through the mythic powers of super heroes. Is there a biological basis to Hulk's transformation? How can knowledge of simple mechanics help us command the strength of Iron Man? Visitors of all ages will enjoy finding the answers to these questions and more as they learn about science and technology while living the fantasy of their favorite Marvel super hero.



The Marvel Super Heroes Science Exhibition is open seven days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with last admission at 4:00 p.m. For tickets and general information, please visit [www.californiasciencecenter.org](http://www.californiasciencecenter.org) or call (323) SCIENCE

(323-724-3623). The California Science Center is located in historic Exposition Park at 700 State Drive Los Angeles.

**Los Angeles**—The 29th Lotus Festival has been set for July 8–9, 2006, to coincide with the blooming of the Lotus Flower. Opening ceremonies will begin Saturday at 12:00 p.m. The celebration of the 29th Lotus Festival will include live music, dance, and other entertainment from a variety of performers representing many of the diverse countries of Asia and the Pacific Islands. This year, the festival will highlight the people and culture of the Philippines. A fabulous fireworks finale over Echo Park Lake will conclude the day's activities at 9:00 p.m. with legendary taiko drummers playing the background.

Artisans-at-work will be on hand to demonstrate their skills on the beautifully decorated Flower Island Pavilion. An international marketplace will offer a variety of Asian and Pacific Islander items for sale. A children's courtyard will give children the opportunity to learn Asian and Pacific Islander arts and crafts and enjoy live music, stories, and dances. Dragon-boat races will be held both days. The food-booth area will provide a variety of Asian and Pacific Islander cuisine.

The event will be held at Echo Park Lake, located on Park Avenue between Glendale Avenue and Echo Park Boulevard (between the Glendale and Union Station Metrolink stops). For additional information, go to [www.laparks.org/grifmet/lotus.htm](http://www.laparks.org/grifmet/lotus.htm) or call (213) 485-1310.



## Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Get set for a magical rainbow ride through biblical Egypt on the wings of the new national tour of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* starring Broadway's Patrick Cassidy and American Idol's® Amy Adams. Audiences will be dazzled not only by the bright spectacle, but also by the blending of various musical styles when Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's first collaboration returns to the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood for 16 performances from June 20 through July 2, 2006.

For a chance to win one of five pairs of tickets to opening night on Tuesday, June 20, 2006, at 8:00 p.m., simply fill out the entry form below and mail it by May 31, 2006, to *Metrolink Matters*, JOSEPH Contest, 700 S. Flower Street, Suite 2600, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

## Meet Metrolink's Board Members

### Bea Proo

Bea Proo was elected to the Pico Rivera City Council in 1992 and re-elected in 1997 and 2001. During this time, she served as the mayor of Pico Rivera three times. She currently sits on the boards of Metrolink and the LOSSAN (Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara) Regional Rail Corridor Agency.



Dedicated to a life of public service, Proo has served on more than 20 boards and committees, including the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors. In 1987, Proo was the first recipient of the prestigious "Woman of the Year" award presented by the California State Legislature's 59th District.

A former teacher and school principal, Proo holds a bachelor's degree in education from Mount St. Mary's College.

## With Metrolink ... Everyone Is a Winner!

Save \$30 on select tickets\* to performances of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* by using the promotional code PATRICK when ordering online at [www.broadwayla.org](http://www.broadwayla.org), over the phone via Ticketmaster (213-365-3500), or at the Pantages Theatre box office.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

All winners will be contacted by phone.

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\*Discount offer applies to Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday evening performances and weekday matinee performances. Discounts apply to top-price tickets only, excluding the first 24 rows of the center orchestra section and the first 8 rows of the center mezzanine section (100s, 200s, and 300s). Subject to availability; not valid on previously purchased tickets; purchase deadlines may apply; no refunds or exchanges; limit 8 tickets per order.

