

Matters

Get Ready for New Cars

More than 100 new train cars featuring state-of-the-art Crash Energy Management (CEM) technology are on the way. The first new cars start arriving this month for testing, and the entire fleet of the country's most advanced new passenger cars is expected to be in service by October 2010. Metrolink will be the first passenger-rail service in the country to place CEM-equipped cars into service.

These 117 new cars will help accommodate our growing ridership while enhancing safety. Because Metrolink is committed to improving the safety and technology of our equipment, we have been working with the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Railroad Authority since 2002 to develop, test, and implement CEM technology.

If you've heard of automobile crumple zones, that's the start of understanding CEM, which implements the idea on a much larger scale. Metrolink has procured new cars from Hyundai Rotem that incorporate energy-absorbing technology. Each new cab car—the lead car equipped to operate the train when it's in push mode in our push-pull system—will be able to absorb 5 million foot-pounds of energy within the crush zones (one on each end of each car); regular coach cars will be able to absorb 3 million foot-pounds.

Of course, CEM is technology we hope we never have to use. But in the unfortunate event that a collision does occur, it will help minimize passenger injuries. We are building a new maintenance facility in the Inland Empire to help accommodate this fleet of advanced-technology cars.

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Metrolink Approves Changes to Fares and Transfer Policy

The past several issues of *Metrolink Matters* have reported on the deliberations among the member agencies of the Metrolink joint powers authority, the Metrolink Board, and Metrolink staff on potential options to address our increased operating costs and changes to our connecting-transit transfer policy, ticketing, and pricing. At its May 15, 2009, meeting, the Metrolink Board reached agreement on solutions that will help maintain regional connectivity and manage costs—while keeping passenger needs a top priority.

The Board approved several actions:

- A 3 percent systemwide average fare increase effective August 1, 2009—a significant reduction from the 4.5 percent increase initially proposed to begin on July 1, and the lowest increase in Metrolink's history in years when the agency has raised fares.
- Development of the transition to an electronic Transit Access Pass (TAP) smart card that will enable us to adapt our ticketing policies and technology to accommodate the implementation of the TAP system in Los Angeles County and the installation of new fare gates at Metro rail stations in 2010.
- Postponement of a proposed new rider co-payment for transit transfers through June 30, 2010, due to an additional subsidy of up to \$400,000 contributed by one of our member agencies, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

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METROLINK AWARDS CONTRACT FOR INWARD-FACING CAMERAS

At its May 15, 2009, meeting, the Metrolink Board unanimously voted to award a \$975,000 contract to install video cameras in all of our locomotives and cab cars. This marks an important step in our ongoing commitment to enhancing the safety of our rail system for our passengers, crew, and the residents throughout Southern California who interact with our system.

The new locomotives you may have seen

on some of our trains already have forward-facing cameras, and the new contract also includes cameras for our older fleet of GM locomotives. The inward- and forward-facing cameras will be installed by Hyundai Rotem in our new cab cars, and so, eventually, all of our cab cars will be camera-equipped Rotem cars.

Metrolink will become the first railroad system in the nation to install inward-facing video cameras in all of our locomotives and

lead passenger cars. These cameras will record all engineer and other staff activity.

The contract was awarded to Chicago-based Railhead Vision Systems after a competitive procurement process. A total of 218 cameras and recorders are expected to be installed by the end of 2009. While the cameras are being installed, Metrolink staff and contractors will be working to develop policies and procedures that will be needed prior to activating the new cameras.

...New Cars

(continued from page 1)

In addition to CEM features, the new cars will have a new look. They will be made of stainless steel instead of aluminum, and they will feature new colors and seat fabric, with interiors decorated in an attractive range of blue hues.



Less noticeably but more importantly, the cars feature many new design and safety improvements. These include a state-of-the-art wireless public-address system and passenger emergency intercom, expanded bike-storage space, improved wheelchair restraints, enhanced emergency windows and door panels, rearward-facing seats in cab cars, theater seating in coach cars, higher seat backs with improved crash pads, armrests on aisle and center seats, bolted-in seat cushions, energy-absorbing tables, and other safety improvements.

Once the new cars are traveling the rails, cars from our current fleet will be temporarily taken out of service for upgrades and rehabilitation. Improvements to existing cars will include updates and enhancements to wheelchair restraints, emergency windows, the passenger emergency communication system, bike-storage space, and more.

Meanwhile, Metrolink is meeting increased ridership demands by supplementing our current fleet with leased cars from around the nation. During the last several years, Metrolink has leased passenger cars from Sounder Transit in Seattle. These Sounder cars have been returned to their home base. To replace them, Metrolink has leased previously owned passenger cars from Utah and New Jersey.

We've leased 10 cars from Utah Transit Authority (UTA). Since these single-level cars are equipped with fewer seats than existing Metrolink cars, we've placed them throughout the Metrolink system after carefully evaluating ridership on each train to help ensure that this replacement will not cause additional crowding.

We've also leased 15 cars from New Jersey Transit. We're currently working with a contractor to modify the air-brake system on those cars for compatibility with Metrolink trains. Once those modifications have been completed—most likely by the fall—these cars also will begin carrying passengers.

Please remember that these leased trains are merely temporary. Metrolink appreciates your patience while you wait to board our 117 new, state-of-the-art, CEM-equipped passenger cars.

New Facility for New Cars

With 117 new passenger cars on the way, Metrolink is working hard to ensure we'll be able to maintain our growing fleet without a hitch. The Central Maintenance Facility, where we currently inspect and service cars and locomotives, won't be able to support the expanded fleet on its own—which is why we will open a second maintenance facility this fall.

The new Eastern Maintenance Facility will be based in the Inland Empire, where two-thirds of the Metrolink fleet already spends the night. At the new facility, Metrolink will store and clean cars; service toilets, brakes, and other components; fuel locomotives; and more. We'll start by servicing four to six train sets and gradually increase capacity. This facility will provide up to 12 equipment-service jobs and will be staffed by four train crews.

Located on 20 acres in Colton, the Eastern Maintenance Facility has been under design and construction for three years. This maintenance and storage facility will supplement our Central Maintenance Facility as well as existing San Bernardino storage and service yards. The current phase of the project includes four storage tracks, two service tracks, a car wash, an office building, and other support facilities. We expect this phase to be complete in early September, with operations beginning soon after. Later phases will add a shop building, additional storage, and more servicing tracks.

The Eastern Maintenance Facility is a key part of our strategic plan to keep Metrolink running smoothly as it grows. It will help us keep train equipment in top condition and avoid interrupting your ride.





Weekend Outing: Walk into the Past on Olvera Street

Looking for some affordable, hassle-free weekend fun? Leave the car at home, and take Metrolink. Weekend service is free to Metrolink pass holders, and costs everyone else 25 percent

less than weekday travel. With weekend service on the Antelope Valley, San Bernardino, Orange County, and Inland Empire–Orange County lines, you can enjoy events throughout Southern California without worrying about gas costs or traffic.

Visit the heart of historic Los Angeles this summer. El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument—including popular Olvera Street—is located across the street from L.A. Union Station. It offers history, food, and shopping with an L.A.-style mix of Mexican, Spanish, and American traditions.

Take the Antelope Valley, San Bernardino, or Orange County line to Union Station. Exit toward Alameda, cross the street, and you'll be standing amid statues of 18th-century rulers in a plaza that marks the 1781 founding of Los Angeles by Spanish settlers.

With 27 historic buildings in just a few blocks, you could spend the whole day at El Pueblo and still not see it all. To be sure you don't miss anything, head north to the Visitor's Center for a map, or call in advance to schedule a free walking tour. If you prefer to roam your own way, start walking in any direction from the plaza. To the north, you'll stroll down Olvera Street, a colorful marketplace of Mexican clothing, candles, and art. Grab a quick taco, or settle in for a more formal meal and a margarita at one of several sit-down Mexican restaurants—the oldest of which, La Golondrina, is housed in L.A.'s oldest surviving brick house, from 1857.

After lunch, explore history. Take a free tour of Avila Adobe, L.A.'s oldest surviving residence, built in 1818, and Sepulveda House, a 22-room Victorian. Then walk west to Nuestra Señora La Reina de Los

Angeles Church, built in 1822. If you need a pick-me-up, try Casa de Sousa, an Olvera Street coffeehouse/art gallery, or Velarde's Fruit, a sweet little stand on the edge of the plaza that serves *licuados*—fruit milkshakes—and fresh fruit.

South of the plaza stands Pico House, a grandiose 19th-century hotel, and L.A.'s oldest fire house, which is now a firefighting museum. Turn the corner to find the Chinese American Museum. And don't miss El Pueblo's murals, including one by famed Mexican painter Siqueiros.

On Saturday, June 6, El Pueblo will be decorated to create scenes from L.A. history for the Fiesta de las Flores. On Sunday, June 7, enjoy an all-day vintage-automobile show.

Olvera Street is admission-free and open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Museum hours and prices vary. To schedule a free historic walking tour, call (213) 628-1274 or visit www.lasangelitas.org/freetours.htm.

Learn more about El Pueblo at www.ci.la.ca.us/ELP.

MORE JUNE WEEKEND OUTING IDEAS:

- **Juneteenth Multicultural Street Fair, Oceanside, June 13**
Info: www.nsdcaacp.org/juneteenth-faqs.html
- **Downtown Street Jam Free Concerts, Downtown Riverside, June 13 and Every Second Saturday of the Month**
Info: <http://calendar.riversideca.gov>

Metrolink Weekend tickets must be purchased before boarding, so arrive at the station at least 30 minutes prior to departure. Up to three children under 5 can travel for free with a paying adult. Riders may use Metrolink monthly passes and 10-trip tickets for appropriate stations. For more information on weekend service, visit www.metrolinkweekends.com.



Photos courtesy of El Pueblo Historical Monument

WEEKEND TRAVEL JUST GOT CHEAPER!

It's now easier than ever for the whole family to enjoy a weekend outing on Metrolink. Our new Friends and Family 4-Pack (FF4P) gives you four individual round-trip Metrolink Weekend tickets at an affordable group rate. Available at all Metrolink ticket vending machines, FF4P tickets allow a group of four to travel together on Metrolink all day on either Saturday or Sunday for only \$29—nearly 50 percent off the average weekend round-trip fare.



Beginning June 1, Metrolink will sell the Friends and Family 4-Pack from all ticket vending machines. Simply press the "Friends and Family 4-Pack" button, pay your fare, and four individual round-trip tickets will be dispensed. Same-day and advance-purchase FF4P tickets are available. Enjoy FF4P tickets for weekend travel, as well as for holiday travel on Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving Friday, and New Year's Day.

The following restrictions apply:

- Valid for Saturday, Sunday, Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving Friday, and New Year's Day travel only
- Up to four people may travel together as a group (not separately)
- Not transferable to Amtrak Pacific Surfliner trains
- Not valid for free transfers to EZ transit-pass operators, including Metro rail and buses

For more information about Metrolink Weekend schedules, visit www.metrolinkweekends.com.

RAPID BUS SERVICE DEBUTS IN RIVERSIDE

A new express bus route linking the Riverside–Downtown Station with the Hemet and Perris areas debuts late this month. This commuter service is free to Metrolink ticket or pass holders.

The Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) will unveil its new CommuterLink Route 212 on June 29. It offers rapid weekday service to Hemet, San Jacinto, Perris, UC Riverside, the downtown Riverside bus terminal, and Metrolink's Riverside–Downtown Station. CommuterLink will make five station stops in the morning and three station stops in the afternoon to drop off or pick up train passengers.



Rides are free to all passengers for the first two weeks of service and are always free for holders of a valid Metrolink ticket or pass headed to or from the train station.

And, as part of a special RTA and Metrolink promotion, all customers riding Route 212 during the first two weeks will be entered into a drawing. Twenty-five lucky winners will score promotional four-trip tickets.

Route 212 is RTA's seventh CommuterLink express route. For more information, call RTA at (800) 800-7821 or visit www.riversidetransit.com.

"SAFETY MATTERS" QUESTIONS, PLEASE!

We'd like "Safety Matters" to answer *your* questions. E-mail us at metrolinkmatters@scrra.net with your safety-related question, using the subject line "Safety Matters," and your query will be considered for upcoming columns. We'd like to know your name, the city you live in, and the route you ride. E-mail us today!

RAILROAD GRUB:

ANGELO'S IN DOWNTOWN POMONA

It's fun, tasty, family-friendly, and affordable—and it's just around the corner from the Downtown Pomona Station on the Riverside Line.

Angelo's Restaurant and Sports Bar brings a New York atmosphere to downtown Pomona, with high ceilings, red-brick walls, and fresh pizza made from a family-style recipe. The dough is made onsite, using only the freshest ingredients. Beyond a large selection of pizzas, Angelo's also serves pastas, burgers and fries, salads, soups, and pita wraps. The menu has something for everyone, offering both a meat lovers' pizza and a long list of vegan and vegetarian items.

And while the menu will make your mouth water, Angelo's is as much about fun as it is about food. With 10 plasma-screen TVs and a full bar, this family-friendly restaurant doubles as a sports bar. Plus, there's live entertainment every night—reggae on Tuesdays, comedy on Wednesdays, rock on Thursdays, a nightclub atmosphere Fridays and Saturdays, and more.

Independently owned since it opened in 2005, Angelo's is a great choice in these tough economic times. Try the all-you-can-eat spaghetti for \$7.99. During happy hour (Mondays through Fridays, 4 to 7 p.m.),

enjoy \$5 appetizers, \$3 Corona, and \$2 domestic draft beer. Or call from the train to order a family-meal special for takeout.



Open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Angelo's is located at 135 E. Second Street in downtown Pomona. From the Metrolink station, head south on Garey Avenue for about 300 feet to Second Street. Turn left on Second, and within half a block, you're there. For more information, visit <http://www.myspace.com/angelosportsbar>.

Let us know about diners, eateries, and restaurants that you enjoy near the station you commute to or from. Tell us what you enjoy most about your favorite eating establishment! We have three rules:

1. Restaurant must be within walking distance of a Metrolink station.
2. No corporate chains, please. We want to hear about places other riders may not know about.
3. Your eatery must have been in business at least a year.

E-mail metrolinkmatters@scrra.net, with the subject line "Railroad Grub."

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH® IS COMING!

Enter for a chance to win a VIP Family Four-Pack of tickets to Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® circus. The tickets are for the 7:30 p.m. performance on Friday, July 24, at the Honda Center in Anaheim. Visit www.metrolinkchancetowin.com or return the entry form below by July 1, 2009. Mail it to Metrolink Matters, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, 700 S. Flower Street, Suite 2600, Los Angeles, CA 90017. No purchase necessary to enter or win.



Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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No, I do not want to receive future e-mails

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One entry per household. All winners will be contacted by phone. Must be 18 years or older to enter. Void where prohibited. For full contest rules, visit www.metrolinktrains.com and click on "Special Events."



Worth a Thousand Words

Metrolink hosted passengers and their children on Thursday, April 23, the official Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day. For Amanda Marzano, pictured "reading" *Metrolink Matters* with her father, Joe, and one of our conductors, it was no big deal. Amanda, 3, has been riding the Ventura County Line from Northridge to Union Station with her dad since she was 4 months old. She goes to day care while Marzano goes to work at Metro. They live in Granada Hills.

Amber Sprague of Corona and Monica Doman of Riverside, both of whom work at the Cypress College Library, took their daughters to work on April 23.

The four—(from left to right) Mikayla Sprague, 13, and her mom, Amber Sprague, Monica Doman and her daughter, Tara Doman, 12—traveled the Riverside Line to Fullerton.



...Fares and Transfer Policy (continued from page 1)

- Retention of transfer privileges for monthly-pass and 10-trip-ticket customers and elimination of free transfer privileges for one-way and round-trip customers once new fare gates are in operation.

Despite the financial challenges we are facing, with increased costs and reduced revenues, we felt it was important to be receptive to the concerns you shared during the public-input process. As such, the Board acted to minimize the financial burden on our passengers by limiting our fare increase and eliminating any rider co-payment for the coming year.

As the TAP implementation and fare-gate installation approach, we will conduct a comprehensive outreach program designed to reach our passengers through a variety of communication channels.



Save 50 Percent on the Home Show

Turn some of those lazy days of summer into weeks of satisfying accomplishment around the house. The 33rd annual Home Remodeling and Decorating Show will return to the L.A. Convention Center Saturday and Sunday,

June 27 and 28. Check out the latest home-improvement products and services, get educated in seminars and how-to classes, and enjoy hundreds of free giveaways of home-and-garden products. Show your Metrolink ticket or pass for a 50 percent discount on admission.

The Home Show is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. To get there via Metrolink, take the train to L.A. Union Station, transfer free to the Metro Red or Purple line, and get off at 7th/Metro Station. Walk upstairs and board the Metro Blue Line (Long Beach) to Chick Hearn/Pico Station. The L.A. Convention Center is across the street. For more information about the home show, visit www.thehomeshow.com or call (818) 557-2950.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game to Root for the Angels

Experience the ultimate American pastime this summer with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim are proud to recognize Metrolink as the "Official Train Partner of Angels Baseball" for the 2009 season.



Metrolink riders can receive \$5 off per ticket in upper-view, lower-view box, and terrace-box wheelchair seats (if applicable). Just present a valid Metrolink ticket at the Angels ticket window during regular business hours. This offer is valid for only the following 2009 regular-season home games: June 12–14, 22–24; July 2, 3, 5–8, 23–29; August 7–12, 24–26, 28–30; September 8–13, 25–30. The discount is limited to a total purchase of six tickets per person per visit.*

Don't forget that both Metrolink and Amtrak trains stop at Anaheim Stadium seven days a week. Check train schedules to plan your trip to the ballpark at www.metrolinktrains.com, or call (800) 371-LINK (5465) for more information. For Amtrak schedules, go to www.amtrak.com or call (800) USA-RAIL.

**Offer is subject to availability, has no cash value, is not valid on previously purchased tickets, and is not good in conjunction with any other promotional offer.*

Enjoy a Burbank Summer Staycation

Come out and play in downtown Burbank this summer—and leave the car at home. Take a staycation at the Residence Inn by Marriott in downtown Burbank with a special rate of \$139 per night for a Thursday-to-Sunday stay. Located in the heart of downtown Burbank, this Residence Inn is within walking distance of dozens of dining, shopping, and entertainment opportunities, and the Downtown Burbank Station. For the discounted rate, go to www.residenceinnburbank.com and use the promo code L9Z. Promotional rate is subject to applicable taxes and based on availability until June 30, 2009. Rates and dates subject to change without notice.



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METROLINK MATTERS

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