

Matters

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Metrolink Board Defers Action On Fare Increase and Transfer Policy

As we shared with you in a previous special edition of *Metrolink Matters*, for many months we have been developing potential options to address our increased operating costs during this uncertain economy and potential changes to our connecting-transit transfer policy, ticketing, and transfer pricing. These include a possible new rider “co-payment” to accommodate an increase in the rate that Metrolink pays to connecting Los Angeles County transit operators, and changes to facilitate the implementation of the Transit Access Pass (TAP) smart-card fare-payment system in Los Angeles County and the installation of new fare gates at Metro rail stations.

At the April 24, 2009, meeting, the Metrolink Board of Directors was presented with the option of adopting a 4.5 percent systemwide fare increase and multiple changes to our connecting-transit policy. These issues generated significant comments from our passengers and meaningful discussion among staff and board members. The Metrolink Board had an opportunity to review comments you shared during the public-outreach process, including your concerns about financial hardships potentially caused by increased fares.

Ultimately, the Metrolink Board decided to transmit its preliminary 2009–2010 budget to the five member agencies that compose the joint powers authority and to defer formal action on the proposed systemwide fare increase and transfer co-payments until those agencies review it. Each member agency must approve the Metrolink budget by the end of June. While Metrolink needs to adjust its budget to address these tough economic times, we are conducting an extended review of all options with our member agencies before we revisit potential fare increases and new rider payments at the May 15, 2009, Metrolink Board meeting.

While the public-outreach process is now closed, we want to thank you for taking the time to share your valuable thoughts on these important issues. We will continue to update you as any budget-related actions are approved.

A Closer Look: Union Station

Every morning, Metrolink trains leave Riverside, San Bernardino, Oceanside, Lancaster, Montalvo, and Moorpark with a destination of L.A.’s Union Station. The dominant transfer point in the Metrolink system—about 68 percent of Metrolink passengers pass through Union Station—this grand passenger terminal is alive with both architectural beauty and historical significance. And this month marks Union Station’s 70th anniversary.

In the 1930s, railroad companies collaborated to create a central terminal for Los Angeles. Blending modern and Spanish Colonial styles, the new station epitomized 1930s Southern California architecture. But, beautiful as it was, the placement of Union Station atop L.A.’s original Chinatown provoked community controversy. Nevertheless, the station dedication on May 3, 1939, was one of the biggest public celebrations in L.A. history, and Union Station soon was bustling. During World War II, it facilitated the movement of Pacific Theater troops. And it was the primary gateway to and from L.A. in the years before transcontinental highways and airlines. Union Station became an icon, featured in movies like *Chinatown* and *Blade Runner*, and TV shows including *24* and *Alias*.

Usage slowed in the mid-twentieth-century automobile era, but lately it’s picking up again. Rising gas costs, environmental concerns, and auto-traffic congestion have reinvigorated the *(continued on page 3)*

CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAIN DAY IN L.A.

On May 10, 1869, a “golden spike” was driven into the final tie that linked 1,776 miles of railway across the United States, and America’s first transcontinental railroad was born. Cross-country travel was possible like never before. Subsequent generations saw

transportation revolutions in the form of automobiles and airplanes. But now, 140 years after that “golden spike,” environmental concerns are inspiring a new generation to take the train.

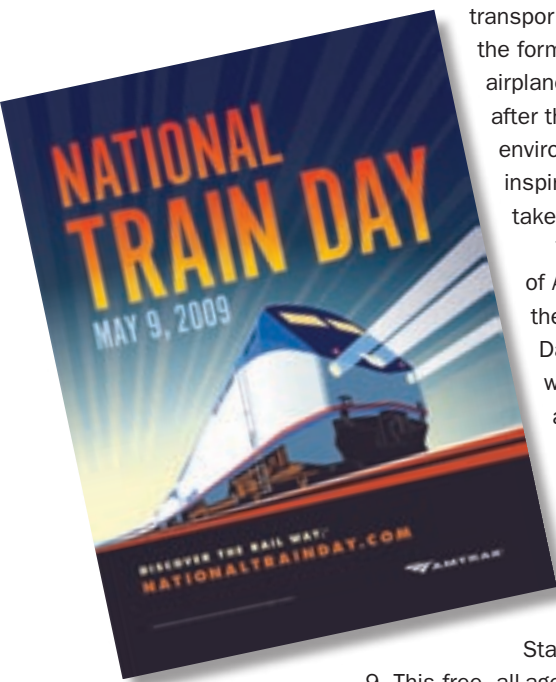
That’s why thousands of Americans celebrated the first-ever National Train Day last May. This year, with events in big cities and small towns alike, it is truly a national event. Southern California train enthusiasts can take Metrolink to celebrate National Train Day at Union

Station on Saturday, May

9. This free, all-ages event will entertain

and inform you from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy live music by singer-songwriter Matt Costa and hip-hop artist Chana, tour historic Union Station, and marvel at Metrolink and Amtrak train displays. An Amtrak-sponsored kids’ area will feature crafts, giveaways, and magicians. There will even be a special interactive “green” display.

To discover the rail way, simply take Metrolink to L.A.’s Union Station. For more information, visit www.nationaltrainday.com. For Metrolink weekend schedules, visit www.metrolinkweekends.com.



Glendale Debuts First Sealed

If your train runs through Glendale, you can get a close-up view of Metrolink’s first crossing that uses new state-of-the-art safety features. Thanks to funding from the City of Glendale, the Flower Street crossing opened in April as part of Metrolink’s industry-leading Sealed Corridor Program. This brand-new crossing near our system’s center is a busy one, with 55 passenger trains and several freight trains passing through each day as they serve the Antelope Valley and Ventura County lines. The crossing is one of several traffic-mitigation measures outlined in the City of Glendale’s Grand Central Creative Campus Redevelopment Project.

It is carefully designed to keep vehicles and pedestrians where they belong—out of harm’s way—when trains pass. The new crossing features quad gates spanning the entire width of the street and raised



SAFETY MATTERS: LOUD AND CLEAR

Whether you are at a station, on a train, in front of a computer, or near a phone, your questions or comments about Metrolink safety or service are important to us. We offer many channels for your opinions or concerns.

- Our Web site answers the most common questions about Metrolink service and safety. It is full of schedules, maps, and FAQs. Visit www.metrolinktrains.com, where you can submit questions by clicking on “contact us.”
- For general comments and suggestions, call (800) 371-LINK (5465). The Metrolink Call Center will answer your question or direct it to the correct department and get the answer for you.
- If you prefer to speak to someone face-to-face, you can talk to your conductor onboard or a field service representative at your station.
- For the timeliest updates on service delays, subscribe to Metrolink tweets on Twitter. You can send a cell-phone text message to 40404 that says “Follow Metrolink” or join through www.twitter.com. More information and FAQs on this service are available through

a link on our home page at www.metrolinktrains.com.

- To ensure your opinion counts, participate in onboard customer surveys conducted twice each year. We pay close attention to what our customers say and address areas of concern.
- To play an even bigger role in communicating rider opinions, join the Metrolink Rider Panel, primarily composed of regular riders. Join online, through the “contact us” page.
- If you have urgent safety issues while on the train, contact your conductor immediately.
- At our stations, we offer several methods to deal with urgent safety issues. You may speak to the security guard or a field service representative, or use the emergency telephone on the station platform. You can also dial 911 using your cell phone.

We’d also like to use “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!



Sealed Corridor Crossing

concrete medians to prevent motorists from driving around gates; new measures to provide pedestrians safe passage across the tracks; advanced signal preemption technology that can prevent bottlenecks when trains approach; and increased signage to provide additional warnings against turns into a crossing when trains are approaching.

This crossing is the first to have the full complement of new safety measures under Metrolink's innovative Sealed Corridor Program, the country's largest program of comprehensive grade-crossing improvements in a densely populated area. Nearly 120 existing Metrolink grade crossings throughout the San Fernando Valley and in Ventura, Orange, and San Bernardino counties are slated for improvements, including several additional grade-crossing projects in the Glendale/Los Angeles corridor.



...Union Station (continued from page 1)

train station. Currently, the average number of annual arrivals and departures is over 35 million, making Union Station one of the region's busiest transportation hubs—second only to LAX. Metrolink has played a big role in the resurgence of Union Station, which also hosts Amtrak trains and buses; the Metro Gold, Red, and Purple lines; the LAX FlyAway buses; and other bus services that serve the Patsaouras Transit Plaza, located between Metro's Gateway Plaza headquarters building and the east portal of the station.

Union Station is neighbor to a crucial Metrolink facility. After our morning trains drop off riders, they head to our Central Maintenance Facility, located less than two miles from Union Station on 26 acres of old train yards adjacent to the L.A. River. Here, we inspect train equipment, perform safety tests, and prepare trains to head back to Union Station for the afternoon rush.

Union Station's private ownership transferred from Southern Pacific to Catellus during the 1990s. Catellus, a division of ProLogis, painstakingly restored the 70-year-old Union Station in the 1990s to reveal its original grandeur. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

RAILROAD GRUB:

MOORPARK'S THE SECRET GARDEN

Exquisite cuisine, romantic décor, and a lush garden—right next to the Metrolink station? That's the luck of our Moorpark riders.

The Secret Garden brings the luxuries of France to the doorstep of Moorpark riders'



commute. Just cross the street from the Moorpark Station and enter a turn-of-the-last-century stone building to enjoy French-American cuisine in a Victorian dining room. An outdoor terrace offers a South of France ambience. And in the 6,000-square-foot garden, you can meander through thousands of flowering plants and herbs.

The Secret Garden's head chef and owner, Michel Bardavid, learned the art of cooking in his native France before settling in the U.S. After working in several renowned American restaurants, he opened the Secret Garden in 2000.

Though the menu changes seasonally, a few items are so beloved by regulars that they are permanent staples: a filet stuffed with Roquefort cheese, a baby-mixed-greens salad, and colossal prawns. A \$15 prix fixe express lunch features a salad, entrée, dessert, and iced tea. In May, join Chef Michel for a special wine-tasting dinner. Or consider the Secret Garden for Mother's Day brunch—it's the only day all year the gorgeous garden is open for public dining. (Otherwise it is available for weddings and other private events.) This spring, the Secret Garden introduces a happy hour, with food and drink specials from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays.



Chef Michel is happy to offer a 10 percent discount to Metrolink riders (not valid with any other offer or during happy hour). The Secret Garden is open for lunch Tuesdays through Fridays, dinner Tuesdays through Sundays, and brunch on Sundays. The Secret Garden is located in Moorpark's historic district, at 255 East High Street. For more information, call (805) 552-9523 or visit www.thesecretgardenrestaurant.com.

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."

WEEKEND OUTING: STROLL THROUGH HISTORY IN SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

Looking for some affordable, hassle-free weekend fun? Leave the car at home, and take Metrolink. Weekend service is free to Metrolink monthly pass holders and weekend tickets are priced 25 percent lower than weekday tickets. 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.

For a walk back in time, visit California's oldest continually occupied residential street, a few steps from the San Juan Capistrano station. The Los Rios Historic District is a perfect weekend outing, complete with brunch, a pleasant stroll, and a little history.

In May, also experience San Juan Capistrano's Historic Preservation Week, May 10-16. Sign up in advance for a Sunday, May 16, historic walking tour starting across the street from the station.

Los Rios Street parallels the Metrolink tracks. A depot crossing guides you across the tracks and into a living California time capsule. The narrow, meandering street is lined by private homes and houses converted into businesses, some 200 years old.

Before wandering down the street, eat. The Ramos House Café serves a unique weekend brunch. It is pricey—\$35 per person with no child discounts—but the crispy crawfish waffles or crab hash are tasty samples of contemporary American cuisine with a Southern



slant. You'll sit on the patio of a house built in 1881, the home of chef/owner John Humphreys. Wines cool in the cellar, herbs grow in the garden, and Humphreys often sits on the porch enjoying music.

You also can opt for the charming Tea House on Los Rios Street for breakfast, lunch, or tea. Down the road are the Montanez and Rios adobes built

in 1794, an old jailhouse, and the San Juan Capistrano Historical Society offices. Check out unique gifts at The Art Garden, Hummingbird Cottage, and Lemon Drop Grove. Take the children to Zoomars Petting Zoo and Bird Park, or wander into Ito Nursery.

Metrolink's Orange County and Inland Empire–Orange County lines provide access to San Juan Capistrano. For more information on Los Rios, visit www.sanjuancapistrano.net/los_rios. For information on Historic Preservation Week, visit www.sanjuancapistrano.org.

More May Weekend Outing Ideas:

- **Great 2009 El Monte Bike Rally, Health and Fitness Expo, El Monte, May 16**
Info: www.ci.el-monte.ca.us/bikerally.html
- **Fender Museum of Music and the Arts, Corona, Open Saturdays**
Info: www.fendermuseum.com

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.

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

Spring signals the start of baseball season—hot dogs, peanuts, cotton candy, and more! Can you think of a better way to relax after work or on weekends than watching a game at the ballpark with family and friends? This year, 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) by presenting 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 right 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.



Save 20 Percent on Ain't Misbehavin' Tickets

Take Metrolink to *Ain't Misbehavin'*, playing at the Ahmanson Theatre through May 31. Metrolink riders save 20 percent on ticket prices for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening performances.*

Ain't Misbehavin' is the Tony award-winning musical revue celebrating the Harlem Renaissance and the music of jazz legend Fats Waller. Recreated by the show's original director, Richard Maltby Jr., for an exclusive Center Theatre Group engagement, *Ain't Misbehavin'* is vibrantly told with infectious energy and the cheeky humor for which Waller was known.

To get your discount to *Ain't Misbehavin'*, show your valid Metrolink ticket or pass at the Ahmanson Theatre Box Office, or buy tickets by phone at (213) 628-2772 or online at www.CenterTheatreGroup.org (use the promotional code METROLINK).

The Ahmanson Theatre is at 135 N. Grand Avenue, near the Civic Center Metro Station.

As an added bonus, Metrolink users can take advantage of the Ahmanson Theatre's special hotel package at the Hilton Checkers Hotel. For information about the hotel package, visit www.hiltoncheckers.com.

* Subject to availability. Offer excludes front orchestra seating and previously purchased tickets.



METROLINK MATTERS

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