



NEWS

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MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
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TAKING METRO GREEN LINE AND SHUTTLE TO LAX DURING HOLIDAYS BEST WAY TO MAKE FLIGHT ON TIME; MEET FRIENDS, RELATIVES

Nothing makes a holiday a downer or knocks the stuffing out of your turkey more quickly than being stuck in an L.A. freeway traffic jam - especially when your flight leaves LAX in 10 minutes and you're miles from a jammed parking lot.

Interminable waits also are dispiriting for close friends and relatives whose flight arrived at LAX and are starting to think: "Did they forget about me?"

Perhaps the biggest frustration of all - having to shell out as much as \$16 a day to park near LAX.

Since the summer of 1995, the MTA has provided an easy solution to avoiding all of the above.

The Metro Green Line, a 20-mile light rail system that now transports 17,100 people a day from Norwalk to Redondo at speeds of up to 65 mph., bypasses freeway snarls and rush hour traffic.

Among the legions of the no-longer-exasperated is frequent flyer Rick Steele, a city of Beverly Hills tree inspector who, by his own calculations, saves nearly \$1,344 a year by using the Metro Green Line and shuttle.

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If the very independent Steele were to park at LAX each time he visited Mom and Dad in Lake Havasu, Ariz., the two-week parking bill would be \$224. Times that by six visits a year and the cost skyrockets to \$1,344.

Arriving at LAX in only 40 minutes, compared to the usual 1-hour, 15-minutes by car, also gives Steele time to relax, enjoy a casual dinner and socialize prior to his flight.

"It's stress-free, that's the main thing," said Steele, who packs light because mom washes his clothes. "The Green Line is definitely the way to go. It's economically sound...and makes great common sense any way you look at it. The shuttle is also remarkably smooth. I've never had a problem."

"Increasingly, thousands of Los Angeles County residents are making their holidays brighter by leaving their car, free-of-charge, at a Green Line station park-and-ride lot (featured at 12 of 14 stations), and taking the Green Line train to the Aviation Blvd./Imperial Highway station," said Joseph E. Drew, chief executive officer. "There they board a shuttle which quickly and smoothly spirits them off to the airport."

According to Los Angeles Supervisor Deane Dana, the Green Line and LAX shuttle quickly are shedding the best known secret in Los Angeles reputations.

"Each month shuttle ridership is increasing by 10 percent," Dana said. "It is becoming well-known, it is becoming utilized, it can only increase. Looking back on my 16 years in office, I would say that playing a role in the development of the Green Line is something I am quite proud of."

"The next time you're traveling at a snail's pace, especially during the holidays, and the Green Line passes you by, then and there make up your mind to give it a try," said Los Angeles Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. "Imagine yourself as that smiling, relaxed Green Line passenger. You can make that dream come true."