



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

News

March 22, 2018

Dave Sotero/Joni Goheen
Metro Media Relations
213.922.3007/213.922.2700

metro.net/press/pressroom
mediarelations@metro.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

It's About Time to Try Transit...FREE

L.A. Metro to Provide Free Rides on Earth Day, April 22

To encourage environmentally friendly transportation options and attract new transit riders, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board today approved free rides on the entire Metro Bus and Rail System on Earth Day on Sunday, April 22.

All 170 Metro bus routes and six major rail lines will be free to the public from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Sunday. Bus fare boxes will be deactivated and all train station fare gates will be opened to enable county residents to freely use public transit for all of their transportation needs.

L.A. Mayor and Metro Board Chair Eric Garcetti championed the free rides initiative as a way to help reduce the region's harmful air emissions. "Metro transit plays a crucial role every day in easing congestion, keeping our air clean and reducing greenhouse gas emissions," said Garcetti. "By making transit free on Earth Day, we are supporting our sustainability goals and inviting more folks to try Metro."

Studies show that taking transit instead of driving alone, even if occasionally, is an excellent way to reduce an individual's carbon footprint, as it reduces the amount of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. The transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gases in California, contributing to 37 percent of the state's greenhouse gas emissions. The greater L.A. region has significantly improved air quality but still violates the federal ozone standard at least 100 days per year.

Metro's entire fleet of 2,438 transit buses operate on clean burning compressed natural gas. The agency has also committed to converting its bus fleet from natural gas to all zero-emission buses by 2030. The 105-mile Metro Rail system already operates on electric power.

"We encourage L.A. County residents to do something nice for our Mother (Earth). Residents can save gas and parking money and ride free on Metro to beaches, museums and other family-friendly destinations," said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. "If you enjoy your transit experience,

we invite you to try our system to take other adventures during the year as we continue our efforts to make Metro the best transit system in the United States.”

Metro is an industry leader in supporting progressive programs to minimize potential environmental impacts resulting from the planning, construction and operation of one of the largest and fastest growing transportation systems in the nation. For additional information about Metro’s environmental policies and programs, please visit <https://www.metro.net/projects/ecsd/environment/>.

Earth Day was established in 1970 to help build public awareness and support for environmental concerns. Today, countries across the world participate in Earth Day observances.

About Metro

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is unique among the nation’s transportation agencies. Created in 1993, Metro is a multimodal transportation agency that transports about 1.3 million passengers daily on a fleet of 2,200 clean air buses and six rail lines. The agency also oversees bus, rail, highway and other mobility-related building projects and leads transportation planning and programming for Los Angeles County. Stay informed by following Metro on The Source and El Pasajero at metro.net, facebook.com/losangelesmetro, twitter.com/metrolosangeles and twitter.com/metroLAalerts and instagram.com/metrolosangeles.

Metro-025

###