



## The Holiday Toy Express™ is on the Move!



On November 18, Metrolink's 10th annual Holiday Toy Express premiered in Lancaster. Children rode miniature trains and made snowballs using real snow that had been brought in for the event, and firefighters collected many toys for this year's "Spark of Love" toy drive.

The Holiday Toy Express, bedecked with more than 50,000 sparkling lights, is now traveling throughout the Metrolink system. At every station, Santa Claus and friends will perform a free show, then meet the audience. If you haven't yet seen this amazing train, then check the schedule located on page 5 of *Metrolink Matters*, and bring the whole family out for a night of wonder.

On December 9, the Holiday Toy Express will make its first-ever visit to the United States Marine Corps base at Camp Pendleton. The train will pull up directly across from Camp Pendleton's 20-foot-tall Christmas tree for a spirited program including the national anthem

and a live, original musical performed aboard a specially designed flatcar.

The base will provide a DJ, food, children's activities, and bleacher seating. There may even

be video teleconferencing between Pendleton families

in Southern California and Pendleton Marines in Iraq, as well as a simulcast of the event in Fallujah, courtesy of Verizon.

Whichever part of Southern California you call home, don't miss the Holiday Toy Express at your local Metrolink station. And don't forget to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the "Spark of Love" toy drive.

For the full Holiday Toy Express schedule, call (800) 371-LINK (5465) or visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com). For more information about the California Firefighters' "Spark of Love" toy drive, visit [www.lafd.org/toyprog.htm](http://www.lafd.org/toyprog.htm) or [www.abctv.com](http://www.abctv.com).



# What Metrolink Means to Me



In the September issue of *Metrolink Matters*, we challenged riders to come up with a photograph that reflected “What Metrolink means to me.” We received many entries during the two-month-long contest, and enjoyed seeing how our riders visually interpreted their commute.

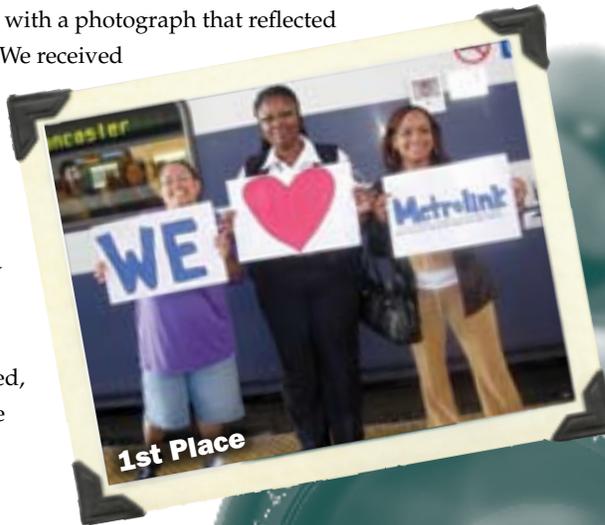
Our panel of judges carefully reviewed each picture in terms of storytelling, composition, and enthusiasm. When the dust settled, we ended up with two first-place winners: Tiffany Chin and Jerry Fischer.

Tiffany Chin’s photo, titled “Sanity,” really spoke to the Metrolink experience. Ms. Chin describes her photo: “Moving above the chaos of dead-stopped traffic on the Orange (County) Line, friends are made, and life can continue.”

Our other first-place winner, Jerry Fischer, submitted a photo titled “The Metrolink Gals,” and described it as “three regular commuters showing their support.”

Each of our first-place winners will receive a free February monthly pass. Congratulations!

Metrolink would like to thank everyone who entered. You can view the entries at [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com).





## 1 in 100 Million!

On Thursday, October 26, Van Nuys resident Andrew Sanchez boarded a train bound for Anaheim and became Metrolink's 100 millionth passenger.

Mr. Sanchez, who works for Walt Disney Imagineering in Glendale, was greeted in Anaheim by Metrolink Board Chairman and Buena Park Mayor Art Brown and Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle, along with lots of balloons and confetti.

"This is a great day for Southern California," said Brown. "We're proud to share our success with our riders, who have helped us reach this milestone much earlier than we expected. We are very pleased that so many Southern Californians are choosing Metrolink's safe, reliable, convenient service."

Metrolink had not anticipated reaching 100 million riders until next year, but increased ridership throughout 2006 meant the milestone was reached sooner. System-wide ridership is up more than 8 percent in 2006.



## Antelope Valley Line: A Well-Knit Commuter Community

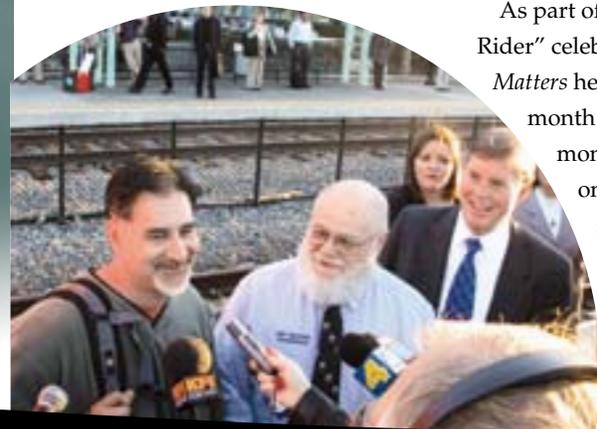
A group of Antelope Valley Line riders found a way to use their commute for a cause this fall, knitting 43 pink scarves for breast-cancer patients.

It started small. In September, a handful of commuters known as the Pink Ladies and One Guy began using their time on the rails to knit and crochet pink scarves to raise awareness about breast cancer. Before long, riders from multiple cars had joined in. "Pretty soon I was getting scarves from people I didn't even know," said Marjorie Sasseen, a legal secretary who rides Metrolink from Acton to downtown Los Angeles and who was one of the original commuting crafters. By October, the riders were able to donate a large bag full of scarves to the American Cancer Society's Antelope Valley office. American Cancer Society representative Terri Gore said her organization gave the beautiful handmade scarves to patients at breast-cancer events throughout October, which is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Sasseen told *Matters* that she and her fellow commuters (who are now calling themselves "The Train Stitches") are currently deciding on their next project. Metrolink wants to acknowledge everyone who participated in the project for their generosity and inspiring spirit!

As part of the "100 Millionth Rider" celebration, *Metrolink Matters* held a contest last month to award a free monthly pass to a rider on each of Metrolink's seven lines.

Congratulations to Mr. Sanchez and our lucky pass winners!





## Trabuco Bridge Project

Riders on the Orange County Line are gliding over a brand-new bridge, thanks to a capital-improvement project of Metrolink and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA). The project was funded by the State of California and OCTA. The old Trabuco Creek Bridge, located between the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo and San Juan Capistrano stations, had reached the end of its useful life. (Its girders dated from 1899, and the bridge was moved to the Trabuco site in 1916.) It has been replaced with a structurally sound modern superstructure that could last another one hundred years.

To replace the bridge, the entire structure had to be taken down—which meant the tracks came off, and no trains could run over the

area until construction was completed. Service in the area was down for 56 hours during the weekend of September 22 through September 25. Metrolink provided shuttle buses to transport affected Metrolink passengers. Throughout the process, Metrolink worked closely with the California Department of Fish and Game to avoid damage to the sensitive creek area.

The bridge upgrade will especially benefit the freight trains that share our tracks. The low rating of the old bridge meant a speed restriction for freight trains; they can now move along at increased speeds. Metrolink would like to thank Orange County riders for their patience during our bridge-replacement weekend.

## Safety Matters

Santa says, “Be safe while waiting at the station and watching my holiday show.” We at Metrolink want you to enjoy the Holiday Toy Express. Please remember the following safety rules:

- 1 – Never run toward or after a train departing the station.
- 2 – No horseplay on the station platforms; pushing and shoving can cause injuries.
- 3 – Children should hold an adult’s hand when the train arrives at the station.
- 4 – Always stand behind the line on the platform, away from the platform edge.
- 5 – Never ignore the active warning signs at a crossing.
- 6 – Always stop when the crossing lights, bells, and gates are activated.
- 7 – Cross railroad tracks only at marked crossings.
- 8 – Never walk or play on or near train tracks.
- 9 – Never place items on the tracks—not even coins.



## Social Vocational Services

Southern California railroad history recently came alive for a group from Social Vocational Services (SVS), Inc., a nonprofit organization supporting people with developmental disabilities as they move toward independence. A group of about 30 SVS members boarded a Metrolink train at the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Station for a trip to Union Station. As they rode the rails, Josef Lesser of the Los Angeles Railroad Heritage Foundation (LARHF) taught the group about basic rail safety, the rails’ effect on the growth and industry of Los Angeles, and how objects we use on a daily basis are transported to our neighborhoods via rail. At Union Station, Lesser led a group tour of the historic station’s murals, sculptures, electric art, original ticketing hall, and more. SVS is grateful to Metrolink and LARHF for a fascinating day trip.



## Travel Safely This Holiday Season



RADD, the entertainment industry's voice for road safety, is proud to announce a campaign aimed at getting people home safely during the holidays. RADD encourages you to avoid drunk driving by planning ahead *before* you party. There are many alternatives to drunk driving, including getting a ride from a designated driver; taking a train, bus, or cab; or staying put by making arrangements to spend the night at a friend's place or in a hotel. RADD is organizing a special holiday rewards program to encourage safe driving. When a designated driver presents a RADD Designated Drivers' License Card (available on your Metrolink train) at participating bars and restaurants between December 1 and February 4, he or she is eligible to receive free non-alcoholic drinks as well as other rewards, including VIP parking. Metrolink is proud to support RADD's campaign for safe driving during the holidays. For more information about the rewards program, including a list of participating restaurants and bars, visit [www.radd.org](http://www.radd.org).



## New FlyAway Service: Remote Check In

Forget long lines and holiday traffic at LAX. Newly-enhanced FlyAway service means you can check in for your flight, get your boarding pass, and even check your luggage for participating airlines\*—all before you get to the airport.

To use the remote check-in service, simply take the train or drive to Los Angeles Union Station, arriving at least three hours prior to your flight. At Union Station, check in, receive your boarding pass, and check your luggage. Then, board the FlyAway bus and travel directly to your terminal at LAX without worrying about traffic or parking. The new remote check-in service is available from 4:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily. Remote check-in costs \$5 per person, in addition to FlyAway shuttle fees. For more information about FlyAway holiday service, call (866) IFLYLAX (435-9529) or visit [lawa.org/lawaGT.cfm](http://lawa.org/lawaGT.cfm).

\* Participating airlines: American, American Eagle, Alaska, Continental, Delta, Horizon, Northwest, Ted, United, United Express/SkyWest.

## Holiday Toy Express™ December Schedule



### Saturday, December 2

Pedley	5:20 p.m.
East Ontario	6:10 p.m.
Downtown Pomona	6:50 p.m.
Industry	7:40 p.m.
Montebello/Commerce	8:30 p.m.

### Sunday, December 3

El Monte	5:00 p.m.
Baldwin Park	6:40 p.m.
Covina	7:20 p.m.
Montclair	8:15 p.m.
Claremont	8:55 p.m.

### Friday, December 8

Downtown Burbank	6:50 p.m.
Sylmar/San Fernando	7:30 p.m.
Newhall	8:25 p.m.

### Saturday, December 9

San Clemente North	5:45 p.m.
MCB Camp Pendleton	6:45 p.m.
San Clemente Pier	8:45 p.m.

### Sunday, December 10

Downtown Riverside	5:15 p.m.
Riverside - La Sierra	6:05 p.m.
North Main Corona	6:55 p.m.
Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs	8:15 p.m.

### Saturday, December 16

Chatsworth	5:00 p.m.
Simi Valley	5:45 p.m.
Northridge	7:00 p.m.
Van Nuys	7:40 p.m.
Glendale	8:30 p.m.

### Sunday, December 17

Montalvo	5:00 p.m.
Oxnard	5:45 p.m.
Camarillo	6:30 p.m.
Moorpark	7:30 p.m.



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## Attention Industry Station Commuters: Brea Canyon Road Closure

A section of Brea Canyon Road—from Washington Street to Spanish Lane—will be completely closed to traffic for approximately 18 months beginning in late December or early January. Riders who typically access the Industry Station Park-and-Ride lot from Brea Canyon Road will be able to access the lot via a temporary access road from Washington Street. The parking-lot entrance on Spanish Lane will remain open. Brea Canyon Road is scheduled to re-open in summer 2008. The road closure is due to construction of a roadway underpass and railroad bridge. For current construction maps and the



most up-to-date information, please visit the Web site of the Alameda Corridor–East Construction Authority: [www.theaceproject.org](http://www.theaceproject.org).

## Mo' Better Commuting

Recently, the Pew Research Center (<http://pewresearch.org>) released the findings of a study on Americans' attitudes toward driving their cars. According to the study, 69 percent of American drivers like to drive, but the percentage of drivers who consider it a chore has increased to 28 percent, up from 20 percent in 1991. The study also finds that driving has become less enjoyable not due to the rising cost of gasoline, but because of traffic congestion and "other drivers."

This may come as no surprise to Metrolink riders who enjoy the convenience and safety of their train ride. In fact, Metrolink's own research revealed that 61 percent of Metrolink riders consider their typical commute "much better" than commuting in Southern California in general. Among non-Metrolink commuters, only 26 percent thought their own commute was "much better" than their fellow Southern California commuters

### Metrolink Riders Have "Much Better" Commutes

(Percent of commuters saying their own typical commute is "much better" than commuting in Southern California in general)

#### Metrolink Riders



61%

#### Non-Metrolink Commuters



26%

Question: "Compared with commuting in Southern California in general, would you say that your own typical commute is much worse, worse, the same, better, or much better?"

Source: Representative survey of 2,972 non-Metrolink commuters and 695 Metrolink riders (Metrolink, 2003).

METROLINK MATTERS

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## Metrolink's Holiday Schedules

'Tis the season to hang all the lights and decorations, finish up shopping for everyone on your list, and make those New Year's resolutions that you may or may not keep. Metrolink knows that with all of the things you have to do this busy holiday season, you need to plan ahead. To help you stay informed and keep up-to-date about Metrolink's holiday schedules, here's a quick summary of special service days:

### Christmas Eve

Regular Sunday service schedules will be in effect on Christmas Eve (Sunday, December 24) on the San Bernardino, Orange County, and Inland Empire–Orange County lines.

### Christmas Day

In observance of the Christmas holiday, there will be no service on Christmas Day (Monday, December 25).

### New Year's Eve

Metrolink will provide regular Sunday service on New Year's Eve (Sunday, December 31) on the San Bernardino, Orange County and Inland Empire–Orange County lines.

### New Year's Day

Only San Bernardino Line trains will operate on New Year's Day, and they will run on a limited schedule: six round trips, with the first train departing Downtown Riverside at 5:15 a.m. and San Bernardino at 5:55 a.m. to arrive in Los Angeles in time to connect to the METRO Gold Line to Pasadena for the Rose Parade. Advance ticket sales for New Year's Day (Monday, January 1) will be available beginning December 1. Select the special ticket button that says "New Year's Special Tkt" at the Ticket Vending Machines.

Metrolink wishes you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season, wherever you may travel this year! If you have any questions or would like to know more about the special holiday train schedules, please contact Metrolink at (800) 371-LINK (5465) or visit our Web site at [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com).

