



Metrolink Proposes Changes in Fares, Fare Policy

In March, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) Board of Directors voted to approve public workshops on a proposed across the board fare increase of 4 percent that would, if approved, take effect July 1, 2004. This proposed increase in fares would help offset unavoidable increases in costs to operate Metrolink service and to maintain our facilities. In addition, beginning July 1, 2005, Metrolink is proposing to restructure the method used to calculate fares in order to make fares for trips of similar length more equitable. Fares would be calculated on the basis of the driving miles between stations instead of based on the placement of stations in fare zones.

Metrolink will be soliciting comments about the proposal from passengers and the general public. These comments will be gathered through e-mail, regular mail, and fax; at six public workshops held throughout Metrolink's operating areas; and at a formal public hearing before the Metrolink Board on April 23. (See page three for schedule.)

Background

When Metrolink began operating in 1992, the system had three rail routes and served 12 stations in two counties—Los Angeles and Ventura. At that time,

the fare for a three-zone monthly pass was \$144.

Since 1992, Metrolink has only raised its fares three times—4 percent increases in July 1998 and July 2000, and a 5 percent increase in 2002. The cost of a three-zone monthly pass went up to \$149.75 in 1998, \$155.75 in 2000, and \$163.50 in 2002.

During its 12 years of existence, Metrolink has increased service by adding four lines (Riverside, Orange County, Inland Empire–Orange County, and the new 91), 42 new stations, and weekend service on two lines (San Bernardino and Antelope Valley).

What Ticket Costs Cover

Metrolink ticket prices do not completely cover the cost of operating the trains.

In our budget for FY 02-03, Metrolink's operating expenses were \$103 million. Of that, 45.9 percent was funded through ticket sales, and the rest (53.1 percent) via subsidies from the five county transportation commissions that make up the SCRRA and from track usage fees paid by the freight railroads and Amtrak.

New Fare Policy

Also on our public workshop agenda is a proposed change in the way Metrolink fares are calculated. This proposed fare-policy change would roll out a mileage-based system over a ten-year period to ensure that Metrolink fares are calculated on an equitable basis.

While the restructuring, if

Inside



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It Was The Best Of Times—It Was The Hearst Of Times

By Sharon Gavin

I have to admit it, even though I work for Metrolink and sat in on the planning meetings and conference calls for the current Rail 2 Rail Weekend Escape promotion, I was wary. Could I really use my San Bernardino Line Metrolink monthly pass to ride Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner trains north of Los Angeles? All the way to San Luis Obispo?! It seemed too good to be true. But my fears proved baseless. It is true...and it's good.

Donning my official Metrolink Matters "Investigative Reporter" hat, I left my Downtown Los Angeles office at about 2:00 p.m. on a Friday afternoon to catch Amtrak train #775 – a northbound Pacific Surfliner train that goes up the coast to Ventura, Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Goleta, Lompoc, Guadalupe, Grover Beach, and my destination: San Luis Obispo. The train left Los Angeles Union Station at 2:55 p.m. (right on time) and even before we pulled out of the station I was comfortably ensconced in a window seat with a good book, a diet soda, and that blissful feeling one gets when leaving the rigors of work behind and heading into a nice relaxing weekend. When the conductor came around for my ticket, I just flashed my Metrolink monthly pass and said that I was using the Rail 2 Rail promotion to San Luis Obispo. And that was that. Wow.

The trip from Los Angeles to San Luis Obispo is about five and a half hours long. From Los Angeles through Santa Barbara the train was pretty full, but as we pulled out of Santa Barbara (just after 5:30 p.m.) I noticed that there were considerably more open seats. The train ride north of Santa Barbara was incredibly beautiful; as we rolled on I ignored my book for a while and just looked out the window. The sunset created a fuchsia sky, the ocean was restlessly crashing against the silhouetted rocks, and I was quickly lulled into a delicious sleep where I dreamed of walking along the beach at sunset, visiting quaint antique stores in Cambria, and driving through the green rolling hills of the Paso Robles vineyards. Sometime later I woke-up to the dulcet tones of the conductor announcing that we were arriving in Grover Beach; I knew that shortly thereafter we'd be in San Luis Obispo.

Now, my husband had driven up to San Luis Obispo that morning (he's got one of those careers that doesn't require him to work on Fridays and he was waiting there at the San Luis Obispo train station as we pulled in at 8:30 p.m.) Oh, I was a happy little Investigative Reporter as he whisked me away for what I thought was going to be a sinfully relaxing weekend until he showed me what he had planned for the next two days. We were to hike up Valencia Peak in Montana de Oro State Park, enjoy a late lunch at the legendary Sylvester's Hot and Juicy Burgers in Los Osos, take in a movie at the Palm Theater (San Luis Obispo's art house cinema), and then dine at the Mission Grill. And on Sunday we were



booked for a bike ride down the Bob Jones Bike Trail to Avila Beach for brunch at the Custom House restaurant and two tours at Hearst Castle (there are four different tours available) in San Simeon. He also wanted to see if we could fit in a trip to see the elephant seals on the beach a few miles up from Hearst Castle. So much for my visions of "the SLO life."

To say that our itinerary highlighted the many wonders of San Luis Obispo and its environs would be wrong. It highlighted a few of them, but there's so much more! Sadly, the Rail 2 Rail Weekend Escape promotion ends on April 30th; but happily, there are still a few more weekends where Metrolink monthly pass holders can still take advantage of this special Rail 2 Rail free offer. (Blackout dates apply to April 9, 10 and 11.)

Many of the merchants and hotels in the San Luis Obispo area are offering discounts to Metrolink monthly pass holders, too. For more information about these discounts, and visiting San Luis Obispo, go to www.sanluisobispo.com/coupons/index.cfm and check out the "Amtrak/Metrolink Special" category.

If you are interested in more information on the Metrolink-Amtrak-Caltrans Rail 2 Rail program please log onto www.metrolinktrains.com and look for the Rail 2 Rail button at the bottom of the page. There has never been a better time to be a monthly pass holder.

Sharon Gavin is the Media Spokesperson for Metrolink and a regular contributor to Metrolink Matters.

...Fare Policy *(continued from page 1)*

approved, would result in an increase in fares for many trips on our system, Metrolink's governing board has set certain parameters to be followed that would lessen the effect in any one year.

- ▶ Fare policy restructuring to take place over 10 years.
- ▶ The annual increase for any fare should not be greater than 8%, resulting in an average annual fare increase of 3.5%, in the first year.

Implementing the program over 10 years results in fares for over 98% of the possible trips on our system increasing 6% or less annually. This includes a 3.5% average increase in fares to generate additional necessary revenue. Also, fares for 10-Trip tickets would be adjusted to more closely reflect the cost of 5 Round Trip tickets.

For more information about Metrolink's proposed increase in fares and restructuring of fare policy, visit our Web site, www.metrolinktrains.com, or call our Customer Service Center at (800) 371-LINK (5465). If you would like to attend one of our public meetings about the proposed fare increase and proposed change in fare calculation, please check the schedule to the right to locate a meeting in your area. Other methods to submit your comments are also available and are described below. As always, we welcome and value public feedback and suggestions and encourage you to participate in this public outreach.

There are several other ways you can send us your comments about the proposed changes:

- ▶ E-mail your comments to metrolinkfares@scrra.net
- ▶ Mail us your comments. You can send them to:
Metrolink Fares, 700 South Flower Street, 26th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017
- ▶ Fax your comments to (213) 452-0421. Send them to the attention of "Metrolink Fares".

All comments will be compiled and presented to our governing board for their review before they consider the proposed changes.

To preview your new fare during the first year of the new fare policy (2005) visit our fare calculator at www.metrolinktrains.com.



Information Table at Union Station

March 29th
East Portal- L.A. Union Station
Distribution of Materials
3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Public Hearings

March 30
Simi Valley City Hall
Community Meeting Room
2929 Tapo Canyon Road
Simi Valley, CA
7:00 p.m.

April 7
Rancho Cucamonga
Senior Center
Zinfandel Room
9791 Arrow Route
Rancho Cucamonga, CA
7:00 p.m.

April 1
Corona Public Library
East Room A
650 S. Main Street
Corona, CA
6:30 p.m.

April 23
Public Hearing
Metrolink Board Meeting
818 W. 7th Street,
San Bernardino
Conference Room
10:00 a.m.
(Pending board approval
on March 26.)

April 5
Santa Clarita City Hall
City Council Chambers
23920 Valencia Boulevard
Santa Clarita, CA
7:00 p.m.

April 6
Orange City Hall
Community Room C
300 E. Chapman Avenue
Orange, CA
7:00 p.m.



SAFETY MATTERS

DOT 178809S



What would you do if your vehicle stalls on the railroad tracks?

Decide now what you will do so that you won't panic if this situation ever occurs. If for any reason your car stalls or is trapped at a highway-rail grade crossing, there is only one thing to do: **GET OUT.** Get yourself and your passengers out immediately, even if you do not see a train approaching. If a train is approaching the crossing, run toward the train at a 45-degree angle. Do not run in the direction the train is traveling, because if the train is unable to stop before striking your vehicle you could be injured by flying debris.

All highway-rail grade crossings are identified by a unique Department of Transportation (DOT) crossing identification number and have an emergency telephone number posted nearby. The DOT identification number consists of six digits followed by a letter (e.g., DOT 178-809S). This number can be on the small aluminum hut which houses the crossing signal circuitry, a signal post, a crossing warning signpost, or fencing adjacent to the crossing (as indicated by the red stars on the figure above). As soon as you and your passengers are out of the vehicle and at a safe distance from the crossing, call the emergency number. **No problem is too small.** Call the posted emergency telephone number if there is any chance your stalled vehicle could be struck by a train. Provide the operator with the DOT identification number to identify your location. If you cannot locate the emergency telephone number, call 911 or local law enforcement to report the problem.

Dodgers Continue to Provide Shuttle Service from Union Station to Dodger Stadium

Day and every Friday-night home game throughout the season. This program, generously provided by the Dodgers themselves, is the first of its kind among Los Angeles sports teams.

The shuttle service will greet fans at Stop 9 within the transit plaza at Los Angeles Union Station and travel for approximately 15 minutes via a dedicated shuttle lane before dropping fans off in Lot 13 at Dodger Stadium. From there, fans can easily enter all levels of Dodger Stadium. After the game, they can pick up the shuttle in the same place where they were dropped off.

Service to Dodger Stadium will begin approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes prior to the first pitch; the wait between shuttles is expected to be 10 minutes or less. The final shuttle to the stadium will depart Union Station 50 minutes after the start of the game. Shuttles returning to Union Station will begin at the top of the eighth inning and continue until approximately 30 minutes after the last pitch, but no later than 11:00 p.m., thus ensuring that fans will make their subway/Metro Rail and bus connections at Union Station.

Enjoy Dodger baseball's Opening Day on April 5, 2004 and every Friday night home game with ease. Simply get yourself to Union Station, and then relax on the convenient shuttle service to Dodger Stadium. You can gaze upon all those cars trapped in traffic and feel superior and well rested, carefully saving your strength for cheering on the team and hailing peanut vendors.

The Los Angeles Dodgers are providing fans with handy shuttle service from Union Station to Dodger Stadium for Opening

Station to Stadium Shuttle Schedule

Friday, April 2 — Angels
Monday, April 5 — Padres (Season Opener)
Friday, April 9 — Rockies
Friday, April 23 — Giants
Friday, April 30 — Expos
Friday, May 14 — Reds
Friday, May 28 — Diamondbacks
Friday, June 18 — Yankees
Friday, June 25 — Angels
Friday, July 9 — Astros
Friday, July 23 — Padres
Friday, August 6 — Phillies
Friday, August 20 — Braves
Friday, September 10 — Cardinals
Friday, October 1 — Giants

Please note that Metrolink train schedules do not coordinate with Dodger game times.

Each shuttle is a 43-passenger bus and will be operated by Transit Systems Unlimited Incorporated, which runs a similar shuttle service for the Hollywood Bowl.

The service will cost \$2 round-trip and will operate for 15 games during the 2004 season. For more information, call (323) 224-1HIT (1448) or visit www.dodgers.com.

Take Our Daughters And Sons To WorkSM Day

April 22 is Take Our Daughters And Sons To WorkSM Day and Metrolink is helping parents participate in this important program by allowing them to bring their daughters and sons aboard Metrolink trains for free on that day.

Metrolink passengers intending to take advantage of this offer should be aware of the following guidelines:

- ▶ Passengers with any type of valid Metrolink fare media may participate.
- ▶ Each fare-paying adult may bring up to three children under 18.
- ▶ Connecting transit, such as busses or the Metro Red Line, may charge a fee for each guest.
- ▶ Passengers and their children may ride any Metrolink train.
- ▶ This offer is only available on April 22, 2004.

The Take Our Daughters And Sons To WorkSM program is designed for both girls and boys, and focuses on expanding future opportunities for all children, in both their work and family lives. The day is designed as an opportunity for girls and boys to learn about the wealth of job opportunities available to them, while being asked to think about how their work will fit into their overall future.



NASCAR Races into Southern California

NASCAR fans need no introduction to the high-speed oval that is California Speedway. For the rest of you, ever feel the ground shake under you as 40 racecars speed by your grandstand at nearly 200 miles-per-hour? Now's the time.

A new, improved Metrolink returns to the California Speedway this May 1 and 2, just in time to welcome the annual NASCAR races to Southern California. Work has been completed on a major track expansion of the San Bernardino Line, including a second main track and a lengthened passenger platform at California Speedway.

Come and join the thousands who already know that taking the train is the fast and easy way into and out of California Speedway. And this year it has become easier yet, with more places to board trains after the race. No more waiting as trains are positioned for loading. Now you can just catch the free Speedway tram to the train station and immediately board your train.

For your Sunday Charter train tickets from all points of Southern California, call California Speedway at (800) 944-RACE (7223) for schedules and fares. Or do it the easy way and purchase your race and train tickets online at www.CaliforniaSpeedway.com. Speedway Sunday service is chartered by the San Bernardino Association of Governments (SANBAG). SANBAG is one of the five county transportation authorities that govern Metrolink.

Serious race fans can also take the train to California Speedway on Friday and Saturday of race weekend. Check the Metrolink web site at www.metrolinktrains.com or call (800) 371-LINK (5465) to learn which trains stop at California Speedway. Purchase your round-trip ticket to Fontana from any Metrolink Ticket Vending Machine on your day of travel. California Speedway is the sole vendor for Sunday charter train tickets, while Metrolink is the sole vendor for its trains on Friday, Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday trains. The regularly scheduled Sunday Metrolink trains depart California Speedway after all charter trains have departed.

California Speedway is situated on the site of the former Kaiser Steel mill, approximately 40 miles east of Los Angeles. It's a great place to watch a race and experience the thrills of NASCAR. California Speedway is one of the premier auto-racing venues in the country, hosting six major racing weekends, including the best-attended sporting event in the state.

Please remember that although food and non-alcoholic beverages are permitted on the train, ice chests are not permitted within the California Speedway site. Be sure to check www.CaliforniaSpeedway.com to learn what you can bring into the Speedway.



Lean, Clean, and Green— April 22 is Earth Day

Think there's nothing you can do about global warming? Think again. The Transit Cooperative Research Program's new web site, www.travelmatters.org, features an interactive emissions calculator that shows how individual travel patterns translate into greenhouse gas emissions. Users enter their monthly distances traveled by mode of transportation—on foot or by bicycle, car, bus, or train—and the calculator provides a personalized greenhouse gas accounting.

One example: According to an on-board survey, the length of an average Metrolink commute is 36.4 miles. Using this number, we can estimate that an average Metrolink passenger rides 72 miles round-trip, 22 days a month, for a total of 1,584 miles per month.

The total emissions for one month of Metrolink train trips are equal to 649 pounds of carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas.

Trees naturally remove carbon from the environment (this process is called sequestration). Through sequestration, trees help offset greenhouse gas emissions. Since one average mature Sugar Maple tree sequesters 1.75 pounds of carbon per month, it will take 101 mature Sugar Maples to sequester the monthly emissions for one Metrolink train. That may sound like a lot, but remember: Each Metrolink train carries hundreds of people simultaneously.

Now let's take an individual driver—in a 2000 Honda Accord—driving the same distance each month, with 20 percent stop-and-go traffic. According to the TravelMatters calculator, the total monthly emissions for this commuter amount to 1,370 pounds of carbon dioxide. To sequester the emissions from just that one automobile would require 214 mature Sugar Maples.

Since transportation is the second-largest source of greenhouse gases, personal transportation decisions definitely have an effect on the global environment. Thank you for taking Metrolink and making a difference. Happy Earth Day!

Station City News



Downtown Riverside Station

The first golf course in Southern California was built in Riverside.

Camarillo—Saturday is the day to enjoy Camarillo’s certified Farmers’ Market from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Ventura Boulevard between Elm and Fir. Enjoy a pleasant stroll and stock up on locally grown fresh flowers, fruits and veggies, and baked goods. There are plants and artwork for sale, too! A portion of the proceeds benefits the Camarillo Hospice.

Lancaster—Join the colorful celebration at the Antelope Valley’s favorite springtime festival—the 13th Annual California Poppy Festival. Many new exhibits and activities have been added to this event, which takes place April 17 and 18 between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. at Lancaster City Park. Carnival games, a farmers’ market, arts and crafts, children’s rides, musical entertainments—there’s fun for the entire family at Lancaster’s California Poppy Festival.

Fullerton—Fullerton Police Department D.A.R.E. presents the 2nd Annual Revvin’ up for D.A.R.E. Car Show Saturday April 17 at 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Enjoy classic cars, customs, hot rods, muscle cars, trucks, motorcycles, specialty vehicles, door prizes, a silent auction, food, music and many other attractions. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center; 1201 W. Malvern Avenue. For more show information contact Tony Bogart at (714) 738-3177 or the Fullerton Police Community Services Bureau at (714) 738-6779 and www.cityoffullerton.com.

Lancaster—On April 2 and 3, twenty-five women will fill the Black Box Theatre at the Lancaster Performing Arts Center with the sounds of womanhood: laughter, tears, anger, and tenderness. **Woman to Woman**, the first production in the Best of the Black Box Series presented by Adelphia, is an engaging original production for a mature audience in a largely readers’ theatre format. It features two humorous original songs by Mark Branner, of the Antelope Valley College Theatre Arts Department, and Stan Nelson, a local musician, as well as two performances by the talented female dancers of Extensions Performing Arts Academy.

The Lancaster Performing Arts Center is located at 750 W. Lancaster Boulevard in downtown Lancaster. Tickets are \$14 and are available through the box office at (661) 723-5950 or online at www.LPAC.org. Please note that **Woman to Woman** contains some intense material not suitable for children.

You’ve Got to Go!

Winner of the 2002 Tony Awards for best direction, best book and best music & lyrics, **Urinetown: The Musical** will make its Los Angeles debut at the Wilshire Theatre, playing for two weeks only, from May 11–23, 2004.

A politically incorrect show that both celebrates and spoofs the best of Broadway traditions, the New York Times calls it “a great musical—extraordinary, hilarious and entirely original. It is simply the most galvanizing theatre experience in town.”

Win one of five pairs of free tickets to opening night (May 11) by filling out the attached coupon and mailing it by April 28 to Urinetown Contest; Metrolink Matters; 700 S. Flower St., 26th Floor; Los Angeles, CA, 90017.

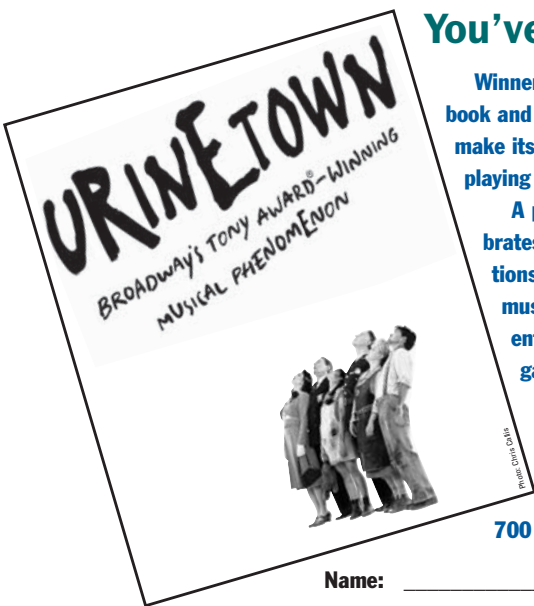


METROLINK MATTERS

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Name: _____

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All winners will be contacted by phone. *Contest tickets are for opening night only.

