



Metrolink News and Events

## TOD: Changing the Way We Live

There is a new and rapidly growing trend in transportation called transit-oriented development (TOD) that just might change the way we all live, work, shop, and play. TOD, also known as New Urbanism or Smart Growth, is focused on the concept of creating or restoring neighborhoods and town centers that are compact, pedestrian-friendly, and centered around access to high-quality train service or other transit systems. These new kinds of communities improve quality of life while decreasing dependence on cars.

With Southern California traffic congestion getting worse every day, New Urbanism provides a sign of hope for the future. Transit-oriented developments are designed with accessible walkways and a diverse mix of shops, offices, and homes—all within a ten-minute walk to a train station.

Creating transit-oriented developments requires the hard work and collaboration of several parties, including transit

agencies, local governments, developers, lenders, and local residents. Currently, 26 out of 55 Metrolink station cities are engaged in TOD planning. Fullerton is working to renovate its historic downtown area, where the Metrolink train station is located.

A major part of this renovation includes new station-adjacent homes being built by the California-based Olson Company, which is also building new homes within walking distance from the Burbank, Buena Park, Orange, and Claremont Metrolink stations. Palmdale has a comprehensive plan to build a "transit village" featuring new office buildings, businesses, shops, and residential areas around its brand-new Metrolink station.

Metrolink is excited to be a part of New Urbanism and Smart Growth—just another way that Southern California is fighting back against freeway gridlock.

For more information on the developments mentioned in this article, visit [www.theolsonco.com](http://www.theolsonco.com).



## Inside Metrolink Crash Energy Management

### Railroad Term of the Month

**Cab Car:** Rail car with an operating cabin at one end, used to control a train when the locomotive is on the opposite end.

In order to enhance the safety of its fleet of cab cars, Metrolink has been working with the Federal Railroad Administration's Volpe Center to develop a new car design that will better protect passengers and crew during the unlikely event of a head-on collision. The new design incorporates the latest crush-zone technology, also known as crash energy management (CEM), which involves many structural changes to make the cars stronger and better able to absorb the impact of a collision.

Allowing trains to safely withstand crashes at twice the speed at which conventional trains can, CEM helps keep structural damage away from passengers during a crash by using special couplers, strengthened roof trusses and unoccupied sections at each end to absorb the crash energy. The unoccupied areas are designed to crumple upon impact, collapsing to dissipate energy before any structural damage reaches the passenger areas.

Metrolink will shortly be ordering the construction of new rail cars, including CEM-equipped cab cars that will replace older-model cab cars currently in use. Older-model cab cars will return to service as ordinary coach cars, carrying passengers in comfort behind the new CEM cab cars.

## Ask Metrolink

Dear Metrolink,  
I have been riding Metrolink trains for more than nine years. Overall, I'm a satisfied customer. But lately it seems like the seat cushions are becoming more and more filthy and falling apart. The seats are so dirty that it is difficult to find one where I don't have to worry about getting something on my clothes. There is also a green dust that spills out of the seats and gets all over my briefcase and purse. Can you please explain where this dust comes from? I know that Metrolink was working on a seat-replacement program, so I wanted to check on the status of the project.



Sincerely,  
Frustrated Rider

Dear Frustrated Rider,  
Thank you for expressing your concerns about the aging seat cushions in our cars. We apologize for any inconvenience they have caused. As you can imagine, wear and tear have taken their toll on these original foam seats. The green dust comes from the seat foam, and although it is messy, it is not harmful to you or other passengers. Metrolink is happy to tell you that on February 3, we completed our seat-replacement project, replacing approximately 15,400 seat-cushion sets on the remaining 54 old style rail cars in Metrolink's fleet. We hope that you enjoy the new seats!

Sincerely,  
Metrolink

## Safety Matters

Every time you board an airplane and prepare for take-off, the flight crew reviews what to do in the event of an emergency. The review of evacuation procedures is important in preparing airline passengers for a possible emergency situation. At Metrolink, we do not have enough crewmembers to review emergency instructions with you on every trip (which could get pretty repetitive, anyway). However, we ask that you familiarize yourself with Metrolink's emergency-evacuation procedures by occasionally picking up one of the orange brochures located in the racks near the doors of every passenger car, or reviewing the poster located in every passenger car.

In the event of an emergency, do the following:

- Listen for your conductor's instructions
- Assist fellow passengers in need of help
- Leave bicycles, wheelchairs, and other bulky items behind
- Evacuate to an adjacent car via the doors on the middle level at each end of any coach car, or the rear end of a forward leading cab car.
- Exit through the regular train doors ONLY if the adjacent car is not accessible or if you are so instructed by a conductor. You can do so by following these steps:
  - Break the plastic covering for the door release that is located next to every door set
  - Pull red ring down



To remove a window in an emergency look for instructions posted near the window.

- Grip rubber between doors
- Exit with caution
- Exit through the emergency windows by following these steps:
  - Pull red handles, located on top of each emergency window, toward you or pull the ring on the plastic strip surrounding the window to remove strip
  - Pull the window toward you using both hands. Windows weigh 72 pounds; remove with caution
  - Place the window inside the train
  - Exit with caution

For more information about Metrolink's safety programs, visit [www.metrolinktrains.com/safety](http://www.metrolinktrains.com/safety).



## A New Destination in Newhall

After 17 months of construction, the Newhall Community Center, a state-of-the-art, 17,000-square foot recreational masterpiece, opened to the public on Saturday, January 21, 2006.

Located adjacent to the Jan Heidt Newhall Metrolink Station, the new community center offers an award-winning boxing program, Ballet Folklórico dance performances, homework help, a toy library, a performance area, eight program rooms, a kitchen, and plenty of parking.

The brand-new Newhall Community Center was built by the City of Santa Clarita at a cost of \$7 million. Through an MTA grant, 150 new and much-needed parking spaces were added to accommodate Metrolink commuters as well as visitors to the community center.

Volunteers donate hundreds of hours teaching karate, tutoring, coaching, and fundraising to help the center. This community spirit benefits not only the young people who enjoy the activities but our entire community by providing high quality, worthwhile activities for youth who might otherwise turn to drugs, gangs, and crime.

"I am very proud of our community center staff that continually goes above and beyond to provide not only the best programming but also to mentor the hundreds of children who visit the center each day," remarked Santa Clarita city councilmember Frank Ferry.



## Come FlyAway at Union Station

**Beginning March 15, you can travel non-stop on the newest airport bus service from Union Station to Los Angeles International Airport for only \$3.00. Approximate travel time to LAX is 35 to 45 minutes.**

**Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), in cooperation with Metro, is starting direct-to-airport bus service from Los Angeles Union Station to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) this month. Metro will allow LAWA to use Union Station's Patsaouras Transit Plaza to operate a 24-hour ticket sales kiosk and provide parking for 500 vehicles at the Gateway Parking Garage. Round-trip fares from Union Station to LAX are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children ages 2 to 12 years. Gateway Parking Garage costs \$6 per day.**

**FlyAway buses will depart Union Station and travel nonstop to the LAX Central Terminal Area to drop off and pick up passengers in front of each of the airport's nine airline terminals. Daily FlyAway bus service is currently set to depart Union Station every 30 minutes from 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Hourly service is offered from 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.**

**The original FlyAway buses began service from Van Nuys Airport in 1975, and has served over 18 million riders and saved 396 million vehicle miles since its inception. LAWA plans to add FlyAway service to its other commercial facilities at Ontario International and Palmdale Regional airports in the near future.**

**Visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com) in March for a special FlyAway promotional offer for Metrolink and Metro passengers.**

**For more information on the FlyAway, visit [www.LAWA.org](http://www.LAWA.org) or call 1-866-IFLYLAX.**



## Railroad Fun for Everyone

The Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society (SCRVRHS), in conjunction with the Fillmore & Western Railway Co. (F&W), will present the eleventh annual Santa Clara River Valley Railfest 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 18, and Sunday, March 19, 2006.

Railfest activities will be held at Central Park in Fillmore, California, and in Piru and Santa Paula, California. F&W will offer a \$20 one-day adult RailPass for travel from Fillmore to Piru and Santa Paula on vintage pre-1940 trains. The trains will depart from Fillmore at 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3:00 p.m., and will return from Santa Paula at 11:20 a.m., 1:50 p.m., and 4:20 p.m. Departures from Piru will occur at 11:20 a.m., 1:50 p.m., and 4:00 p.m.

Railfest 2006 will offer railroad fun and adventure, with miniature-steam-train rides provided by the Ventura County Live Steamers, train displays, delicious food, performances by the famous Frontier Gunfighters, demonstrations of antique farm equipment, and automobile displays. The SCRVRHS's 1956 Union Pacific Pullman Sleeping Car and Santa Fe caboose will be open for public tours at the depot in Santa Paula.

Metrolink will participate by offering a commuter-train display that visitors can tour.

The SCRVRHS Railroad Visitor Center, located across from Fillmore's Central Park at 455 Main Street, contains many historical railroad artifacts, a Lionel model-train layout, a gift shop, and a 20-seat digital theater with surround sound.

Admission and parking for the event are free.

For more information, visit [www.scrvrhs.com](http://www.scrvrhs.com) or [www.fwry.com](http://www.fwry.com).



## Great Train Adventure

My sister and I wanted to take an overnight trip to our grandparents' house in Santa Barbara. With gas prices still high, Mom and Dad visited the Metrolink and Amtrak Web sites and discovered that it is really easy and inexpensive to take the trains. We were so excited!

We woke up early on Saturday morning to catch the 6:45 a.m. San Bernardino Metrolink train to Union Station. My mom grabbed breakfast at Union Bagel, the really cool sandwich shop in Union Station, while my dad kept my little sister busy. At 10:15 a.m., our Amtrak train took off for Santa Barbara. Once we reached Ventura, we had a really great view of the ocean. Grandma and Grandpa were waiting at the station when we arrived a little before 1:00 p.m., and they took my sister and me to explore the town while Mom and Dad stayed behind to "get the bags." Who did they think they were kidding? We know they went shopping!

We visited the Santa Barbara Museum of National History and the Ty Warner Sea Center. We had so much fun! We saw educational exhibits on birds, marine life, and even reptiles and amphibians. My sister and I crawled through a tunnel inside a 1,500-gallon tank filled with sea stars, urchins, and other ocean creatures.

The next morning, we had breakfast at a café right on the beach before heading back to San Bernardino. I can't wait until our next family adventure!

For Metrolink train schedule information, visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com) or call (800) 371-LINK (5465). For Amtrak train information, please visit [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com) or call (800) USA-RAIL (872-7245).



## CATS Returns to Los Angeles

CATS, the now-and-forever classic musical, has introduced generations to the wonders of live theatre since it originated in London in the 1980s.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's pop opera that became the first of Broadway's modern "mega-

musicals," CATS returns to Los Angeles for the first time in over three years. With an astounding 7,485 performances on Broadway, CATS holds the record as the longest running show in the history of The Great White Way. CATS is also the longest continuously touring show in American theatre history. Based on T.S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats," CATS has grossed well over \$2 billion and been seen by over 50 million people worldwide. And now it returns for a very brief time to bring its magic to Los Angeles' pre-eminent theatre palace, the Pantages Theatre. Let the memory live again!

Enter now for a chance to win one of five pairs of free tickets to opening night. Simply fill out the entry form below and mail it by March 27 to Metrolink Matters, CATS Contest, 700 S. Flower Street, Suite 2600, Los Angeles, CA 90017.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

One entry per person and per household. All winners will be contacted by phone.

( 8 0 0 ) 3 7 1 - L I N K



## Meet Metrolink's Board Members

### Mayor Daryl Busch

Mayor Daryl Busch has the distinction of having been the elected mayor of Perris since 1999. In addition to performing his duties as mayor, he also serves on the board of the March Joint Powers Authority and is a member of the local chapter of the League of Cities and the Rotary Club.

When Mayor Busch took office in 1999, Perris was on the verge of bankruptcy, but as a result of his leadership and development of new programs, the city is now flourishing. Currently the city is working on several projects, including a renovation of the downtown historic train station.

## Did You Know?

Service animals are welcome on Metrolink trains. A service animal is any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal trained to provide assistance to a person with a disability.

Small pets (non-service animals) are permitted as long as they are contained in an appropriate pet carrier that fits on the passenger's lap or under the train seat.



## Correction to the February Metrolink Matters "Safety Matters" article:

During 2005, Metrolink staff members have conducted more than 90 presentations to over 6,000 people.

<p><b>METROLINK MATTERS</b>                  Editor-in-Chief: Paul Sitkoff                  Contributors: Charlene Ariza, Elizabeth Mahoney, Colleen Richter and Denise Tyrrell                  Designer: Harlan West/HWDS                  Writing Consultants: Rogers &amp; Associates                  C.E.O.: David Solow                  Director, Communications and Development: Steve Lantz                  Manager, External Communications: Francisco Oaxaca</p>	<p>Send comments or story ideas to <a href="mailto:metrolinkmatters@scrra.net">metrolinkmatters@scrra.net</a> or to Metrolink Matters 700 S. Flower St., Suite 2600 Los Angeles, CA 90017.                  Published by the External Communications Department.</p>
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