



Fare Increase Proposal

Metrolink is considering increasing the average annual fare by 3.5% each year in 2007, 2008 and 2009 to offset anticipated increases in costs to operate commuter train service. If approved by the Metrolink Board of Directors, the new fares would go into effect on July 1 each of the three years. A separate public outreach process would be required if the board were to consider a higher average fare increase than the proposed average 3.5% in future years.

Tables that illustrate the fares for each year of the proposed program are on the metrolinktrains.com website.

The spreadsheets for each year are organized to display each of the station pairs in the Metrolink system for each ticket type. Proposed fares for 2007 can be found using a fare calculator also on the website.

In 2004, our Board approved a plan for average annual average system wide increases in fares of 3.5% along with a restructuring of our ticket pricing policy over a 10-year period beginning July 1, 2005. Under the restructuring component of the plan, the method for calculating fares was changed from a zone structure to a more accurate structure based on the driving distance between station pairs. A more detailed description of the fare restructuring program can be found at the Metrolink website at metrolinktrains.com. Restructuring itself does not result in any more or less revenue to Metrolink but it will eventually result in consistent distance-based fares across the system. Ticket

prices were also capped at an 80-mile maximum. Under the proposed average

3.5% fare increase for 2007, -08 and -09, 99% of current monthly pass holders

would experience a total fare increase of 6.5% or less.

A Public Hearing on the proposed fare increase was held during the regularly scheduled Board meeting on Friday, April 27, 2007. The notice of the public hearing was posted on the Metrolink website, as well as published in six newspapers throughout the five-counties Metrolink serves. All public comments received prior to the public hearing were compiled and made available to the Metrolink Board of Directors for review prior to the April 27th meeting.

This public hearing is **continued** to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board on May 11, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. and public comments will be accepted through that meeting. The continued public hearing will take place at the Southern California Association of Governments, 818 W. Seventh Street, 12th Floor, San Bernardino Conference Rooms, Los Angeles, CA 90017. A summary of all comments received prior to the May 11, 2007 meeting will be presented to the Board at that time and the proposed three-year fare increase program will be considered at that time.

Comments can be e-mailed before the May 11, 2007 public hearing to metrolinkfares@scrra.net, faxed to (213) 452-0452 (addressed to Metrolink Fares) or mailed to **Metrolink Fares, 700 South Flower St., 26th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017.**



Safety Matters: Always Watch for a Second Train

Along most of Metrolink's rail lines and at many of our stations, there are at least two sets of tracks. When approaching a pedestrian crossing (like those found at each end of the platform at the Downtown Burbank Station), be aware of trains approaching on either track. Never cross if the crossing lights and bells are activated. If the crossing is activated, do not cross in front of a train holding at the platform. When you see the last car of a passing train, do not cross until the crossing device is no longer activated and you are sure that there is not another train approaching from the opposite direction. Be aware that freight trains and maintenance vehicles can run on the same tracks as Metrolink trains and do not run on a set schedule.

For more information about Metrolink's safety programs, please visit www.metrolinktrains.com or call (800) 371-LINK (5465).



Santa is on his way!

Did I read that right? Santa?

Yes! Though summer hasn't even started and the kids are still in school, Metrolink has already begun planning the 2007 Metrolink Holiday Toy Express.

The 11th annual *Holiday Toy Express*® is just around the corner. This sparkling, twinkling train is decorated with over 50,000 lights, ornaments, and holiday trimmings, and will visit Metrolink stations throughout Southern California during the holiday season. At each stop, the *Holiday Toy Express*® will offer free live shows and help collect toys for less fortunate children in cooperation with local firefighters' "Spark of Love" toy drive.

Santa and Metrolink need your help. We are searching for sponsorship partners who are looking for new ways to reach the community and who want to help make this worthwhile event possible.



Claremont Museum of Art



Alongside the San Bernardino Line tracks in Claremont, something old has been reconfigured as something new and exciting. A large red-and-black sign on the side of an old packinghouse announces the arrival of the Claremont Museum of Art—a nonprofit, regional museum with international significance.

The museum's first exhibition is a retrospective of internationally renowned, Claremont-based painter Karl Benjamin, one of the founders of abstract classicism. "A Conversation with Color: Karl Benjamin, Paintings 1953–1995" showcases the work of an important local artist who has "a zest for color and light," according to Grace Glueck of the New York Times. The new

museum has 7,400 square feet of exhibition space, as well as a sculpture garden and a gift shop featuring arts and crafts by local artists. Benjamin is one of many internationally acclaimed artists who have settled in Claremont to teach at the Claremont Colleges.

The College Heights Lemon Packing House, on First Street at Indian Hill, was built alongside the railroad tracks in 1922, when citrus was Claremont's major industry. This historic building was slated for demolition before architect and longtime Claremont resident Mark von Wodtke re-envisioned the site as Packing House Park, which includes the new art museum as well as a movie theater, live-work lofts, restaurants, retail shops, and a new hotel. This "green" development has energy-saving features such as windows that provide natural ventilation; low-flush toilets; drought-resistant, native plants in the landscaping; and a saw-tooth roof ideal for the solar panels that will be installed later this year. The location of the new museum—right alongside the train tracks, in the center of town—is itself environmentally friendly, as it is easily accessible via foot, bike, and train.

The museum, which opened on April 15, is located at 536 West First Street in Claremont. Admission is free through May. Beginning June 1, admission will be \$3.00 for adults and free for children under 18. For more information, call (909) 624-3591 or visit www.claremontmuseum.org.





Grade Separation

When railroad tracks intersect with a street, highway, or pathway used by pedestrians or motorists at an “at-grade crossing,” there is a potential source of traffic hazard to distracted, careless, or reckless motorists and pedestrians. Not paying attention, trying to “beat the train,” or simple mechanical failure can all lead to trouble.



The safer alternative is a grade-separated crossing, where the highway and railroad tracks are at different elevations, with the rail crossing over or under the street. To increase the safety of California’s motorists, pedestrians, and train passengers, there are a number of grade-separation projects under way, including some that will replace existing at-grade crossings.

Grade-separation projects are a collaboration between the cities, which own the crossings in question; the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the regulating body that has jurisdiction over the safety of highway-rail crossings in California; and railroads such as Metrolink or the freight railroads.

Some of the grade-separation projects for crossings on the Metrolink system that are currently in design or construction include Ramona Boulevard in El Monte, Sierra Highway in Santa Clarita, Jeffrey Road in Irvine, Haven Avenue in Rancho Cucamonga, and Columbia Street in Riverside.

For more information about rail safety, please visit www.metrolinktrains.com.



The *Holiday Toy Express*® reaches over 60,000 Southern Californians throughout the five Metrolink counties. Since 1997, Santa and his train have helped the “Spark of Love” toy drive collect more than 200,000 toys for children in need by asking attendees to bring new, unwrapped toys for donation to this free holiday-entertainment experience.

If you or someone you know works for a company that you think might be interested in participating in one of the most unique holiday traditions ever to ride the rails, please call (213) 452-0216 and help us create the magic this year.



Fullerton Railroad Days

All aboard! On May 5 and 6, the Fullerton Transportation Center will play host to one of the biggest rail events in Southern California as train buffs from all over converge for the ninth annual Fullerton Railroad Days. Trains, trains, and more trains will be on display, along with a collectors’ market, food vendors, and unique gift boutiques in celebration of American rail heritage.

Take a peek inside antique rail cars, freight equipment, and model railroad exhibits. As a special treat, Disneyland’s own C.K. Holliday (a steam locomotive) and Kalamazoo (a railroad handcart) will be on display.

Local Boy Scout troop 292 will offer a pancake breakfast on both Saturday and Sunday beginning at 8:00 a.m. Entertainment will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day.

For more information about Fullerton Railroad Days, visit www.scrmf.org/rrdays



City News

Lancaster—The Antelope Valley Ballet brings the enchanting story of Cinderella to life with a cast of local dancers at the Lancaster Performing Arts Center, May 5 and 6. With familiar characters including the evil stepmother, a handsome prince, and the fairy godmother, **The Cinderella Ballet** is notable for its jubilant score by Prokofiev. The Antelope Valley Ballet's production features original choreography and added scenes. With a special youth price of only \$10, this ballet is perfect for the whole family.

Also coming to the Lancaster Performing Arts Center: Local actors, singers, and dancers bring the adventures of **Peter Pan** to life, May 11 to 13. Based on J. M. Barrie's delightful tale, **Peter Pan** is about the

Neverland escapades of a boy who won't grow up and his friends the Darling children, Tinkerbell, and the evil Captain Hook. The musical includes familiar songs like "I Won't Grow Up" and "I'm Flying!"

For more information, please visit www.lpac.org



Oxnard—Get out the whipped cream and put your smiles on for the 2007 California Strawberry Festival, May 19 and 20 at the Strawberry Meadows of College Park in Oxnard.

Delicious strawberry foods, live entertainment, 300 arts-and-crafts booths, gooey contests, rides and attractions at Strawberryland For Kids, and many other attractions await you at one of the nation's top outdoor family festivals.

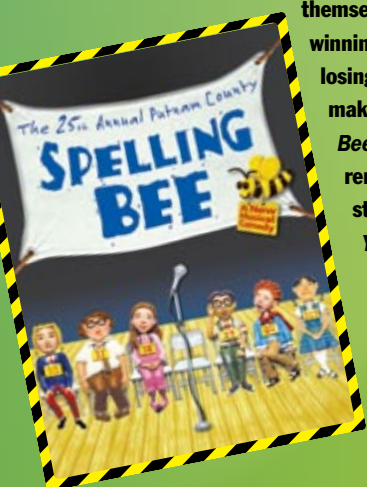
Admission is \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors (ages 63 and older) and active military and their dependents (with ID), and \$5 for kids (ages 5 to 12 years). Youths four and under may attend for free. For more information about the festival, call (888) 288-9242 or visit www.strawberry-fest.org.



The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

In the Tony Award®-winning new musical *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, six young people in the throes of puberty—overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves—learn that winning isn't everything and losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser. "*Spelling Bee* is riotously funny and remarkably ingenious. Gold stars all around," says the *New York Times*.

For a chance to win tickets for two, simply fill out the entry form below and mail it by May 21, 2007, to **Metrolink Matters, Spelling Bee Contest, 700 S. Flower Street, Suite 2600, Los Angeles, CA 90017**.



Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Ticket vouchers are good for one of the following performances: Tuesday, May 22, 8:00 p.m.; Friday, May 25, 8:00 p.m.; Tuesday, May 29, 8:00 p.m.; Wednesday, May 30, 8:00 p.m.; Thursday, May 31, 8:00 p.m. One entry per person. All winners will be contacted by phone.

Train Groupies

Is your daily commute a social hour? Do you look forward to your morning arts and crafts hour with your friends between Riverside and Orange? Are you part of one of many groups that have sprung up on Metrolink's trains as commuters band together to make their daily trips more enjoyable? If so, then Metrolink wants to hear from you!

Metrolink Matters is looking to feature groups of commuters who come together on a regular basis to hold book clubs, sew, play games, or any of the various activities our passengers have found to connect with each other.

Send us a short description of your group, a creative name, photos, and contact information, and if we end up spotlighting your group each member will win a free Metrolink shirt.

Send your entry via email to metrolinkmatters@scrra.net, or send it to *Metrolink Matters*, Train Groupies, 700 S. Flower Street, Suite 2600, Los Angeles, CA 90017. Entries can be submitted until July 2, 2007.



Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Train Group Name: _____

Description: _____

METROLINK MATTERS

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