

METROLINK MATTERS

METROLINK NEWS AND EVENTS



Metrolink introduces new TAP-enabled tickets

Metrolink continues to offer the “golden ticket” throughout the region, providing connections to nearly 30 other public transportation providers at no additional cost. Metrolink riders have always been able to transfer seamlessly to all Metro subway, light rail and bus lines. This will continue as Metro latches its turnstiles leading to its Red and Purple Lines this June.

As mentioned in the December/January issue of *Metrolink Matters*, Metrolink and Metro have worked collaboratively to create a Metrolink ticket that is compatible with the Metro TAP system. TAP-enabled tickets will be dispensed from Metrolink

Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs) and will allow passage through Metro's turnstiles, which are scheduled to be latched this summer. All Metrolink tickets with Los Angeles County destinations will be TAP-compatible, and all riders will be required to physically tap their tickets at the turnstiles or validators when transferring to a Metro Rail line. When boarding a bus, show the bus operator your Metrolink ticket. Tapping is not required on buses.

Currently, Metrolink TAP-enabled tickets are being tested in the field for durability and functionality throughout the transportation network. Metrolink riders will begin to see new tickets in May 2013. The Metrolink TAP-enabled tickets are easily identifiable by the TAP logo in the upper right-hand corner.

In an additional measure to reduce fare evasion, the new Monthly Passes will only be available for purchase starting the 25th of the current month through the 5th of the new month beginning in May, so be sure to keep those dates in mind.

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Go car-free to LAX with Metrolink and FlyAway®

Paying for the LAX FlyAway® bus will soon get a little easier for Metrolink riders. If you're traveling to LAX, you no longer have to purchase a separate ticket to ride the FlyAway® starting April 22. Metrolink, in partnership with the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), will give you the option of adding the \$7 cost of a one-way LAX FlyAway® trip to the cost of your Metrolink ticket.



All you have to do is go to any Metrolink Ticket Vending Machine and simply select LAX as your final destination when purchasing your ticket, take the train to L.A. Union Station and board the FlyAway®. The buses run seven days a week and every 30 minutes during peak hours.

The added ticket feature applies to the following Metrolink tickets: One-Way Tickets, Round-Trip Tickets and Advance Purchase Tickets. You can buy One-Way or Round-Trip Advance Purchase Tickets for a future date, up to one year in advance (visit metrolinktrains.com for more information on Advance Purchase Tickets).

If you're a Monthly Pass holder, remember you can ride the LAX FlyAway® shuttle at no additional charge as long as you show a valid flight boarding pass.



Word from the CEO

On Wednesday, March 27, Metrolink introduced *Customer Connect*, a customer service initiative that will help us better understand your needs and improve your commute. I joined Metrolink staff members at L.A. Union Station's East Portal to meet riders, hear their feedback and answer questions. It was great getting to know the riders who stopped by, and I was glad to hear that some of the riders were interested in joining our Rider Advisory Group.

If you haven't had a chance to visit our *Customer Connect* booth, please take the opportunity to stop by. Metrolink staff members are available every Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at L.A. Union Station's East Portal, near the escalators leading up to the bus plaza facing Vignes Street. We would love to hear what you think about our service and hear your ideas about how we can make improvements.

If you're interested in joining our Rider Advisory Group or just want more information about *Customer Connect*, please visit metrolinktrains.com/CustomerConnect. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you soon.

Michael D. DeBello



Celebrating Earth Day: What Metrolink is doing to reduce its carbon footprint

Metrolink does its part to improve the environment by removing an estimated 8.5 million weekday automobile trips from the road every year. But our efforts do not stop there. Over the years, we have adopted green policies to reduce our carbon footprint. An example includes the implementation of our Fuel Conservation Program in combination with the installation of Automatic Engine Start Stop mechanism on 32 of our 52 locomotives to prevent excess idling and reduce fuel use and emissions.

One of our most recent undertakings to reduce our carbon footprint is our plan to upgrade our fleet. In December, our Board of Directors authorized Metrolink to secure up to 20 Tier 4 locomotives, making Metrolink the first commuter rail provider in the nation to procure the cleanest-burning diesel engines on the market.

The upgrade is expected to reduce particulate matter and nitrous oxide by more than 80 percent. The improved fuel efficiency will allow Metrolink to operate using less fuel, resulting in significant annual cost savings.

We continue to secure funding for the locomotive procurement. Last August, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated \$60 million to help pay for our fleet upgrades, and in February, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) committed \$34.66 million. Additional funding will be provided by our member agencies, along with state and federal lawmakers.

Read more about our efforts at metrolinktrains.com/sustainability



Metrolink employees discussing *Customer Connect* with riders

...TAP-enabled tickets (continued from page 1)

On Wednesday, March 6, Metrolink and Metro collaborated on a successful test-latching of Metro's fare gates at L.A. Union Station. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., two of the largest groups of Metrolink riders successfully transferred to Metro Red and Purple Lines through latched turnstiles at the Alameda Street entrance of the station. For the first time ever, Metrolink riders

were tapped through the turnstiles by staff using the Metrolink TAP-enabled tickets.

Testing is expected to continue until the official launch date. Metrolink riders will receive more information regarding the launch of TAP-enabled tickets as the turnstile latching draws nearer.

Visit metrolinktrains.com/tap for additional information.





Events and promotions

Celebrate Latino culture at Fiesta Broadway

Join the hundreds of thousands of people expected to attend this year's 24th annual Fiesta Broadway, the largest Hispanic event in the nation's largest Hispanic market. The popular street and music festival, dubbed the largest "Cinco de Mayo" celebration in the world, is a celebration of Latino music and culture.

Watch live performances by top Latin music stars and roam 12 square blocks of downtown Los Angeles where you can find some of the best Mexican and Latin American food in the world.

All the action will happen on Sunday, April 28. To get there, take Metrolink to L.A. Union Station and then transfer to the Metro Red or Purple Line. Get off at the Civic Center or Pershing Square station, located one block away from the festivities.

For more information, visit metrolinktrains.com/fiestabroadway



Sample best food and drinks in Orange County at 8th annual Taste of Orange

If you're a foodie or wine and beer lover, the Taste of Orange is a must-attend event. It will be held on April 28 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Assistance League Chapter House (124 S. Orange St.), just two blocks from the Metrolink Orange Station.

Indulge in fine American, Italian and Mediterranean cuisine prepared by more than 30 of the best local restaurants. Sip some of the best wine and beer in town*. Enjoy live music and use the photo booth to capture memories of the event.

Admission is \$30 for Metrolink riders and \$40 for the general public. \$20 of the ticket price is tax deductible (nonprofit tax ID: 95-6101256) since all proceeds will go toward helping underserved families in Orange. For those interested in donating more funds, there will also be a silent auction and opportunity drawings at the event. *Alcoholic beverages are an additional cost.

Visit Metrolink.TheTasteOfOrange.org to purchase your discounted tickets.

Metrolink and Metro partner to provide service from Orange County to Dodger Stadium

Metrolink is teaming up with Metro to provide special Orange County Line train service to L.A. Union Station and back on May 27 and 28 so baseball fans can watch the Dodgers and the Angels contend against each other in the annual Freeway Series. The special Metrolink train service will complement the Dodger Stadium Express buses operated by Metro from L.A. Union Station to Dodger Stadium and back.

On May 27 and 28, Metrolink riders will be able to purchase special \$7 Metrolink Round-Trip Tickets to travel from any Orange County Line station to L.A. Union Station*. Metrolink riders who show their Dodgers tickets (or proof of payment for will-call tickets) will be able to ride the Dodger Stadium Express bus at no additional cost from L.A. Union Station to Dodger Stadium and back. Riders without a Dodgers ticket must pay \$1.50 to board the Dodger Stadium Express or use a Metro rail or bus day pass, weekly pass or monthly pass.



The shuttle and train service is funded by a Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) grant awarded to Southern California public transit agencies that offer alternative transportation during major events to help reduce air pollution by removing cars from the road.

*Check metrolinktrains.com for more information on ticket prices as the event draws nearer.

Events and promotions

CicLAvia's near: LA's biggest bike event returns in late April



Cyclists, walkers, joggers and skaters, mark your calendar for the first of three CicLAvia events this year. CicLAvia – *To the Sea* will happen on April 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and it's free to the public.

CicLAvia gives communities an opportunity to connect in ways that aren't possible when they're in their cars. Ten miles are closed off to cars and will feature art, performances, music, food and many more activities that the whole family can enjoy.

To accommodate bicyclists, Metrolink will add additional Bike Cars on select trains. Check metrolinktrains.com/CicLAvia for the modified Bike Car schedule as the event draws nearer.

To get to CicLAvia, ride Metrolink to L.A. Union Station. Exit on the west side of the station, cross Alameda Street and walk to the end of Plaza at Olvera Street to get to Main Street where you'll join hundreds of other CicLAvia participants.



National Bike Month events

To celebrate National Bike Month in May, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)

are holding free public events to encourage people to trade in their cars for an environmentally friendly alternative. Below is a list of events happening near you. Metrolink also encourages you to bring your bike on board the trains throughout the year to explore Southern California's many beautiful bike trails (metrolinktrains.com/bikes).



Los Angeles County

May 13: Fix Your Bike Day

May 14: Blessing of the Bicycles

May 15: Guided Ride Day: Bike Lanes and More

May 16: Bike to Work Day

May 17-19: Bike Local Weekend

More information at metro.net/bikes/bike-week

Orange County

April 28: Bike Festival at Huntington Beach Pier Plaza from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

May 16: Bike Rally

May 13-17: Bike to Work Week

More information at octa.net/bike

Popular Angels Express service returns

Metrolink and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) have once again partnered to offer special train service on the Orange County Line to and from Angels weeknight home games April 9 through September 24. You can take the special round-trip service on weeknight game days to Anaheim from the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo Station and LA Union Station. The service is also available from the Riverside-Downtown Station on the Inland Empire-Orange County Line to Friday night games only. The special trains depart 30 minutes after the end of the games, so be sure to give yourself plenty of time to make it back to the Anaheim Station for your return trip. For Friday night games, Metrolink will hold the train 45 minutes so you can stay behind a little longer to enjoy the fireworks.

Visit metrolinktrains.com/AngelsExpress to view train schedules and special Angels discounts. The round-trip train tickets cost \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$4 for youth ages 6 to 18. Up to three children ages 5 and younger can ride for free as long as they are accompanied by a paying adult.

You can purchase same-day tickets at Ticket Vending Machines at L.A. Union Station and Orange County and Inland Empire-Orange County line stations.



METROLINK SAFETY ALWAYS MATTERS

Be Safe. Be Smart.

In 2012, rail-related trespass deaths and injuries increased, according to the nonprofit rail safety organization, Operation Lifesaver. Federal Railroad Administration preliminary 2012 data indicates that rail-related trespass deaths and injuries have been recorded at their highest levels since 2008. California once again leads the nation with 74 lives lost due to trespassing on railroad tracks. "Educating a distracted public in order to reduce trespassing injuries and fatalities continues to be a challenge," said Operation Lifesaver President and CEO Joyce Rose.

There are more distractions today than ever before. Texting, talking on the phone or listening to music near train crossings and on station platforms are big distractions.



Metrolink urges you to **Be Safe. Be Smart.** because safety is everyone's responsibility, including yours. Be aware of your surroundings. Simple things like taking your head phones off and/or putting away your handheld device could save your life.

Remember:

- Cross safely! Look both ways and listen before crossing train tracks. Always expect a train at any time, from either direction.
- Don't be distracted. Refrain from using your cell phone, iPod or other music players when you're near train tracks; texting also can be a deadly distraction near the tracks.
- Never race a train. If you see a train coming, don't try to "beat" it; stay off the tracks. Remember, an approaching train will always be closer and moving faster than you think.
- Do not trespass. Tracks, trestles and train yards are all private property. Cross only at designated crossings.
- Never walk, bike, jog or run down a train track; it's illegal and dangerous.

Celebrate all things literary at LA Times Festival of Books

Ride Metrolink to the 18th annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, which will be held at the University of Southern California (USC) on Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 21. The Festival of Books is the largest public literary festival in the nation, attracting more than 150,000 book enthusiasts every year. It's an event fit for the entire family, and it's absolutely free.

See some of your favorite authors engage in storytelling and participate in panel discussions. Browse the hundreds of booths set up by booksellers, publishers and literary and cultural organizations. You can even watch live cooking demonstrations and poetry readings.

To get there, take Metrolink to L.A. Union Station, then transfer to the Metro Red or Purple Line. Get off at the 7th Street/Metro Center/Julian Dixon Station, and go upstairs to connect to the Metro Expo Line. USC is right across from the Expo Park/USC exit.





Railroad days are near

San Bernardino Railroad Days

Where: Santa Fe Depot (1170 W. 3rd St.),
right next to the Metrolink San Bernardino Station

When: Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Activities:

- View the historic #3751 Steam Engine. You can even ride it on Saturday at approximately 10 a.m. from L.A. Union Station to the San Bernardino Station or Sunday at approximately 3 p.m. from the San Bernardino Station to L.A. Union Station. Ticket prices range from \$70 to \$115.
- Eat food, watch western-themed re-enactments, listen to country music and more. There may be a fee for some activities.
- View railroad memorabilia, antique horsedrawn buggies, fire engines and other historical items at the San Bernardino Railroad Museum. The museum will be open both days. Admission is free.

More information: metrolinktrains.com

Fullerton Railroad Days

Where: Santa Fe Depot (120 E. Santa Fe Ave.),
right next to the Metrolink Fullerton Station

When: Saturday, May 4 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, May 5 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Activities:

- Take tours of more than 40 railroad equipment displays, including the Amtrak 40th anniversary exhibit train and a BNSF locomotive. View a scenic railroad garden made of 7,000 square feet of model train layouts. Dabble in train-themed face painting. Select from a variety of food vendors and browse booths set up by railroad organizations.

More information: metrolinktrains.com

National Train Day

Come out to L.A. Union Station on Saturday, May 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Amtrak's sixth annual National Train Day. National Train Day is a day to reflect on how important trains have been for the mobility of community members as well as economic development and job opportunities. The theme of this year's event is "trains matter."

You will have the chance to explore interactive and educational exhibits, view model train displays and even take tours of private luxury railcars, as well as Amtrak, freight and Metrolink trains. There also will be special fun-filled activities just for kids.

Don't forget to stop by the Metrolink booth where you can pick up some Metrolink giveaways.

Visit NationalTrainDay.com for more information.



When life hands you lemons... eat them!

If you're craving some good old-fashioned lemon meringue pie, lemon cookies or lemon tarts that you can wash down with some freshly squeezed lemonade, then the 2013 Lemon Festival is calling your name. Themed *When life hands you lemons...*, the festival will take place on April 26 (3 to 11 p.m.), April 27 (10 a.m. to 11 p.m.) and April 28 (10 a.m. to 11 p.m.) right across from the Metrolink Upland Station.

Not only will you be able to indulge in lovely lemon delights, but you will also be able to participate in many family friendly activities. Compete in the lemon pie eating contest, and put your vocal skills to the test in the wildly popular Lemon Idol singing competition. Watch a live western show, listen to live country music and take pictures with real-life cowboys and cowgirls dressed in authentic western attire. Go on carnival rides with your kids and watch the many musical and dance performances.

Admission to the festival is free, but there is a charge for some activities. For more information, visit uplandlemonfestival.com

METROLINK MATTERS

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