METROLINK RIDER SPOTLIGHT

GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ

MARILYN BRODY &

Gabriel and I met on the train sometime in October 2011. We were returning home from Los Angeles. The first thing he said was, “You’re the most stylish thing on this train.” That got my attention! He was persistent and charming in a very real, not slimy, sort of way.

MB: We hope to keep riding the train together; every moment we spend together is a joy.

ML: Thanks for speaking with us, Marilynn. Let’s start with a quick chat with Metrolink’s newest couple.

I made when we first started looking at rings. The center stone belonged to my maternal grandmother. Gabe designed the mounting himself, and it showcases the stone beautifully.

He proposed twice. The first time was on December 12, 2012. He grasped my hands in his and began reciting wedding vows. I thought he was joking until a couple of days later when he took me ring shopping! The second proposal came in April of 2013. Gabe got down on one knee, cutest face… just to name a few things.

He’s loving, kind, devoted, sincere, funny, smart, intuitive, and has the I love so much about Gabriel that it’s impossible to pick just one quality.

SB: We are an electrician. I was born and raised in the snowy center of America and moved to the LA area for work. I missed writing and craved a job involving more interpersonal skills, so I ended up in computer programming. After programming for a number of years, I spent a brief period performing general office duties and later landed a job in Technical Writing.

My beloved mother owned her own business and my dad’s retirement settled on Technical Writing.

GB: I was a child of the 80s, so my first memory is when I was 6 and riding the Los Angeles Metro Expo Line. I started riding Metrolink from Claremont to Los Angeles for several years.

SB: I’d say a true Metrolink fan.

GB: I was actually born in California, but my family moved to Arizona for a few years before moving back to California when I was 4.

GB: T he first time we were on the same train was on our way home from LA–Sacramento, CA.

MB: When did you decide to get married?

SB: I was a child of the 80s, so my first memory is when I was 6 and riding the Los Angeles Metro Expo Line. I started riding Metrolink from Claremont to Los Angeles for several years.

MB: Gabriel proposed twice. The first time was on December 12, 2012. He grasped my hands in his and began reciting wedding vows. I thought he was joking until a couple of days later when he took me ring shopping! The second proposal came in April of 2013. Gabe got down on one knee, cutest face… just to name a few things.

He’s loving, kind, devoted, sincere, funny, smart, intuitive, and has the I love so much about Gabriel that it’s impossible to pick just one quality.

SB: I’d say a true Metrolink fan.

GB: I was actually born in California, but my family moved to Arizona for a few years before moving back to California when I was 4.

GB: The first time we were on the same train was on our way home from LA–Sacramento, CA.

MB: When did you decide to get married?

SB: We hope to keep riding the train together; every moment we spend together is a joy.

ML: Will you keep riding Metrolink as a married couple?

We hope to keep riding the train together; every moment we spend together is a joy.

ML: How did he propose?

GB: Gabriel proposed twice. The first time was on December 12, 2012. He grasped my hands in his and began reciting wedding vows. I thought he was joking until a couple of days later when he took me ring shopping! The second proposal came in April of 2013. Gabe got down on one knee, cutest face… just to name a few things.

He’s loving, kind, devoted, sincere, funny, smart, intuitive, and has the I love so much about Gabriel that it’s impossible to pick just one quality.

SB: We are an electrician. I was born and raised in the snowy center of America and moved to the LA area for work. I missed writing and craved a job involving more interpersonal skills, so I ended up in computer programming. After programming for a number of years, I spent a brief period performing general office duties and later landed a job in Technical Writing.

My beloved mother owned her own business and my dad’s retirement settled on Technical Writing.

GB: I was a child of the 80s, so my first memory is when I was 6 and riding the Los Angeles Metro Expo Line. I started riding Metrolink from Claremont to Los Angeles for several years.

SB: I’d say a true Metrolink fan.

GB: I was actually born in California, but my family moved to Arizona for a few years before moving back to California when I was 4.

GB: The first time we were on the same train was on our way home from LA–Sacramento, CA.

MB: When did you decide to get married?

SB: We hope to keep riding the train together; every moment we spend together is a joy.

ML: Will you keep riding Metrolink as a married couple?

We hope to keep riding the train together; every moment we spend together is a joy.

ML: How did he propose?

GB: Gabriel proposed twice. The first time was on December 12, 2012. He grasped my hands in his and began reciting wedding vows. I thought he was joking until a couple of days later when he took me ring shopping! The second proposal came in April of 2013. Gabe got down on one knee, cutest face… just to name a few things.

He’s loving, kind, devoted, sincere, funny, smart, intuitive, and has the I love so much about Gabriel that it’s impossible to pick just one quality.

SB: We are an electrician. I was born and raised in the snowy center of America and moved to the LA area for work. I missed writing and craved a job involving more interpersonal skills, so I ended up in computer programming. After programming for a number of years, I spent a brief period performing general office duties and later landed a job in Technical Writing.

My beloved mother owned her own business and my dad’s retirement settled on Technical Writing.

GB: I was a child of the 80s, so my first memory is when I was 6 and riding the Los Angeles Metro Expo Line. I started riding Metrolink from Claremont to Los Angeles for several years.

SB: I’d say a true Metrolink fan.

GB: I was actually born in California, but my family moved to Arizona for a few years before moving back to California when I was 4.

GB: The first time we were on the same train was on our way home from LA–Sacramento, CA.

MB: When did you decide to get married?
METROLINK IS PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

IN LATE 2013, METROLINK INITIATED WORK ON THE PREPARATION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN to chart out a path for the passenger rail agency over the next 10 years. Once finalized and approved by our Board this spring, the Strategic Plan will provide a roadmap and vision for how Metrolink will evolve into the future. This roadmap is being developed based on an in-depth look into the agency’s strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and challenges, as well as an assessment of how regional travel in Southern California is evolving. Based on our self-examination of the performance of the Metrolink system and organization, five principles were identified to guide our strategic plan. These five guiding principles are:

- **FOCUS:** making sure that basic needs of the operation and the agency’s finances are met
- **CUSTOMER VALUE:** placing the needs of the customer first
- **CONNECTIVITY:** integrating regional transportation to link land uses and activity centers throughout Southern California
- **TRANSPARENCY:** sharing accurate information in a timely manner with our customers, the public, and our decision-makers
- **COLLABORATION:** partnering with all regional partners and stakeholders

These principles are designed to make Metrolink the premier passenger rail agency in the nation and are tailored to meet the particular needs of Metrolink as a joint powers authority partnership supported by its five member agencies.

INCORPORATING YOUR INPUT

We highly value your input on the future growth of Metrolink over the next five to 10 years. We are incorporating what we have heard from you into our Strategic Plan development process. As you may know, we recently conducted a public online survey in the spring of 2014. From this survey, and other comments we have received to date, respondents having been calling for more service, especially more mid-day and evening service, along with the strong desire for the Southern California transportation network to accommodate a wider variety of trips that will provide riders with more flexibility in their travels across the region. There has also been emphasis placed on enhancing our schedules and reliability within our existing service. Furthermore, there is interest in connecting to locations beyond our current service area. This interest suggests a need to develop strategic partnerships with transit providers that can support these future connections.

In December 2014, we again reached out through Metrolink’s social media outlets with a second round of surveys to get riders’ feedback and opinions on possible agency priorities, potential service scenarios, and to collect general comments. If you haven’t done so already, we invite you to visit metrolinktrains.com/publicsurvey and be a part of Metrolink’s future growth by participating in the survey.

We will continue working toward completion of our Metrolink Strategic Plan with the goal of finalizing and adopting it this spring. Please stay tuned for more information.
Metrolink reached a new milestone last year when our school field trip program provided school children with more than 14,000 rides as they explored Southern California as part of their studies. These are the most students Metrolink has ever accommodated in a single school year, and the number of schools utilizing our system continues to grow steadily. Metrolink’s school field trip program exposes students to public transportation using mostly mid-day trains, and allows students access to some exciting destinations that they may not otherwise be able to visit. Over this past year, the most visited destination was L.A. Union Station and Olvera Street, followed by the Mission at San Juan Capistrano.

In addition to providing for the students’ field trip transportation needs, the program is designed to educate Southern California’s youth on the ease of taking public transit and how to practice safe behavior around trains and railroads. A significant number of student field trips are also organized as a way to educate students on how to ride the train: schools will book a trip, ride to a specific station then get on the next return train back to their station of origin.

Priced at only $3 per student, the school field trip program supports school-sponsored field trips to destinations throughout Southern California. Any school with students aged 5 to 18 years (typically grade levels K-12) can benefit from the program.

SCHOOLS THAT MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA QUALIFY FOR THE PROGRAM:
- Students aged 5 - 18 and/or attending K - 12, regardless of age.
- Minimum group size of 15.
- A minimum of one chaperone per 10 students, with a maximum of one chaperone per five students. A one-to-one chaperone/student ratio is permitted for students with disabilities. (All other adults must purchase tickets from Ticket Vending Machines on day of travel).
- Price is $3 per student or chaperone, round-trip or one-way.
- No transfers to connecting transit will be provided.
- Weekend school trips are not allowed.
- Subject to space availability.

INTERESTED SCHOOLS LOOKING TO BOOK A FIELD TRIP ON METROLINK CAN SCHEDULE THEIR EXCURSION IN THREE SIMPLE STEPS:
1. Call (800) 371-5465 (LINK) to make your reservation with Metrolink. Reservations must be made at least six weeks prior to travel.
2. Send in payment at least 30 days prior to travel.
3. Board the train with the valid travel voucher.

For more information about the Metrolink school field trip program, please visit metrolinktrains.com/school.
IT’S NO CONTEST.

Throughout America, a person or vehicle is struck by a train roughly once every three hours! Ninety-five percent of all rail-related deaths involve drivers trying to beat a train, or people trespassing on railroad tracks. Please remember -- when you match yourself or your vehicle up against a train, “It’s No Contest.”

Please visit metrolinktrains.com/safety for more information.

PERSONAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

If passengers see any unusual or unsafe activity onboard our trains they should contact the conductor immediately. Metrolink conductors are trained and equipped to handle a variety of emergency situations. Additionally, our conductors can communicate directly with the Metrolink Operations Center to secure assistance from law enforcement officials and emergency response teams during any emergency.

STAY ALERT. STAY WITH OTHERS. SPEAK UP.

- Always be aware of your surroundings and the people around you, day or night.
- Trust your instincts. If someone or something makes you feel uneasy, move away, change seats and ask for help.
- Stay with others; if possible, travel with another rider or in a group.
- Share your concerns with a security guard, police officer, or conductor. Call 800-371-5465 (LINK) to report suspicious activity.

We take customer safety very seriously. Please be aware of any unusual occurrences or circumstances, particularly while boarding. Keep track of your belongings at the station and on the train. Always listen for onboard announcements and follow any directions from the train crew.

METROLINK IS RECRUITING!

JOIN OUR TEAM.

WE HAVE OPENINGS TO FILL. CHECK OUR CURRENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT METROLINKTRAINS.COM/CAREERS

ADVANCE MONTHLY PASSES

AVOID THE LINE!

Don’t get stuck waiting in long lines at ticket vending machines to purchase or redeem your Monthly Pass. Metrolink Monthly Passes are always available starting on the 25th of every month prior. For example, the March Monthly Pass will be available beginning on February 25. Avoid the line and get your Monthly Pass early!
A QUICK CHAT WITH METROLINK’S NEWEST COUPLE

ML: Thanks for speaking with us, Marilyn. Let’s start with where you’re from and what you do.

MB: I was born and raised in the snowy center of America and moved to California half a lifetime ago.

I spent a brief period performing general office duties and later landed a job in computer programming. After programming for a number of years, I missed writing and craved a job involving more interpersonal skills, so I settled on Technical Writing.

ML: What’s your history with Metrolink?

MB: My beloved mother owned her own business and my dad’s retirement career consisted of being her “Guy Friday.” They rode Metrolink together from Claremont to Los Angeles for several years.

ML: How did you meet your fiancé, Gabriel? What is he like?

MB: Gabriel and I met on the train sometime in October 2011. We were each returning home from Los Angeles. The first thing he said was, “You’re the most stylish thing on this train.” That got my attention! He was persistent and charming in a very real, not slimy, sort of way.

I love so much about Gabriel that it’s impossible to pick just one quality. He’s loving, kind, devoted, sincere, funny, smart, intuitive, and has the cutest face... just to name a few things.

ML: How did he propose?

MB: Gabriel proposed twice. The first time was on December 12, 2012. He grasped my hands in his and began reciting wedding vows. I thought he was joking until a couple of days later when he took me ring shopping!

The second proposal came in April of 2013. Gabe got down on one knee, ring in hand, and proposed.

My ring is amazing. And it has a name, “EE,” after the squealing sound I made when we first started looking at rings. The center stone belonged to my maternal grandmother. Gabe designed the mounting himself, and it showcases the stone beautifully.

ML: Will you keep riding Metrolink as a married couple?

MB: We hope to keep riding the train together; every moment we spend together is a joy.
METROLINK RIDER SPOTLIGHT

MARILYN BRODY & GABRIEL

Marilyn Brody is persistent and charming in a very real, not slimy, sort of way. “You’re the most stylish thing on this train.” That got my attention! He was MB: Gabriel and I met on the train sometime in October 2011. We were ML: How did you meet your fiancé, Gabriel? What is he like? from Claremont to Los Angeles for several years.

Career consisted of being her “Guy Friday.” They rode Metrolink together MB: My beloved mother owned her own business and my dad’s retirement ML: What’s your history with Metrolink? showcases the stone beautifully.

I missed writing and craved a job involving more interpersonal skills, so I I made when we first started looking at rings. The center stone belonged MB: I was born and raised in the snowy center of America and moved to the ring in hand, and proposed.

My ring is amazing. And it has a name, “EE,” after the squealing sound ML: How did he propose? he was joking until a couple of days later when he took me ring shopping!

He grasped my hands in his and began reciting wedding vows. I thought He’s loving, kind, devoted, sincere, funny, smart, intuitive, and has the I love so much about Gabriel that it’s impossible to pick just one quality.

Start your day of fun by joining Metrolink and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Irvine Metrolink Station for free food, entertainment, and free Metrolink tickets for the first 100 people. Because this event is so popular, there will be an additional train returning to Orange County in the afternoon to accommodate riders. To learn more, and to view the special service train schedule, visit metrolinktrains/lunarnewyear.

Join Metrolink and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) for a kickoff event at the Orange Metrolink Station on March 7 from 9 to 10 a.m. Enjoy free food and entertainment, and free Metrolink tickets for the first 100 people. For more information visit metrolinktrains/FOW.

Race fans – you can take Metrolink for free to the Auto Club Speedway’s Auto Club 400 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race on Sunday, March 22! The free train ride will be offered to a limited number of race fans with the support of Clean Transportation Funding from the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC). After the limited numbers of free tickets are depleted, race fans will once again be able to purchase the discounted $19 round trip train tickets. Riders must sign up in advance to register for the free train tickets. For more information, please visit metrolinktrains.com/autoclubspeedway.

Metrolink will operate three trains originating from Oxnard, Lancaster and Oceanside with limited stops for faster service. Metrolink’s Speedway trains stop at a specially constructed station just off the back straight-away of the race track. From there, passengers will board a free tram that takes fans to the entrance gates. Trains depart the Auto Club Speedway approximately one hour after the end of the race, or checkered flag.

Metrolink is one of the official transportation partners of the Stanley Cup Champion Los Angeles Kings for their 2014/15 season. Metrolink riders can be the best dressed Kings fans by purchasing their official merchandise at the TEAM LA Store with a 10% discount at all home games. Just show your Metrolink ticket at the TEAM LA Store at STAPLES Center to receive your discount or go online to teamlastore.com and use the promo code METRO10 upon checkout. Go Kings Go!

Don’t miss your chance to see some of the hundreds of whales that will be passing by Dana Point! The annual Festival of the Whales (March 7-8 & 14-15) celebrates this annual migratory journey, and can be easily reached by a convenient Metrolink train.

On March 21, the City of San Juan Capistrano celebrates the historic return of the swallows from their winter home in Argentina. For more information, visit metrolinktrains.com/swallows.