

# LA Metro

## “LA Metro Focuses on the Environment in More Ways than One”

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) provides public transportation infrastructure and services for the more than 9.6 million people – nearly one-third of California’s residents – living and working in LA County. Recognizing that no one form of transit can solve urban congestion problems, Metro has taken a multimodal approach using a variety of transportation alternatives to meet the needs of the highly diverse populations in the region. It operates over 2,000 peak-hour buses on an average weekday. It designed, built and now operates 73.1 miles of Metro Rail service including the Metro Red Line subway system, the Metro Blue Line, the Metro Green Line, and the Metro Gold Line. In total, the Metro Rail system serves 62 rail stations stretching from Long Beach to downtown Los Angeles to Hollywood, Universal City and North Hollywood in the San Fernando Valley, from downtown Los Angeles to Pasadena and from Norwalk to El Segundo and all points in between. On the average weekday, more than 1.5 million people travel on Metro trains and buses. Not only does Metro operate one of the country’s largest public transit systems, it also serves as transportation planner and coordinator, designer and builder.

### 9,200 EMPLOYEES KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD

With this measure of responsibility, Metro employs more than 9,200 people in a broad range of technical specialties and services ranging from Metro Bus and Metro Rail operators and mechanics to construction engineers and safety inspectors, from transportation planning professionals to customer information agents.

Naturally, Metro is keenly aware of the environmental benefits of public transit use. It operates one of the largest clean air fleets in the country and all trains are powered with electricity. Metro encourages the use of public transportation to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and reduce gas emissions.

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

In compliance with the South Coast Air Quality Management (AQMD) regulations, Metro has several programs in place to reduce emissions generated by employees commuting in single-occupancy vehicles. These include rideshare programs, emergency ride home programs and its ever-popular commuting expense subsidy.

### MULTIPURPOSE ID BADGES AND COMMUTER CHECK VOUCHERS

In an effort to encourage Metro employees to use public transit, each employee is provided with an identification badge that is loaded with free fare media on Metro operated trains and buses. Recognizing that some employees commute from areas where there is no Metro service, for those employees whose daily commute involves non-Metro public transit or vanpools, Metro provides Commuter Check vouchers to subsidize the commuting expense. Metro employees use their Commuter Check vouchers to pay for non-Metro transportation services including vanpools. Vanpools allow groups of people to commute together to save on fuel and vehicle operating costs as well as to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles on the road. Vanpools are extremely popular in LA County as many live outside the public transit area. It is not uncommon for some Metro employees



“Commuter Check is a key program that helps us reduce emissions generated by employees commuting in single-occupancy vehicles and stay in compliance with the South Coast Air Quality Management regulations.”

- Terree Holman

Metro’s Corporate Employee Transportation Coordinator

to commute two hours each way or four hours a day. The ability to use Commuter Check vouchers to pay for vanpool expenses increases their appeal.

#### METRO EMPLOYEES APPRECIATE COMMUTER BENEFIT

"Metro's focus on the environment permeates everything we do, from our massive clean air fleet to the commuter benefits we receive as employees," said Metro's Corporate Employee Transportation Coordinator Terree Holman. "The convenience of our Metro ID badges and our Commuter Check vouchers makes it so simple, and we're proud to work for a company that demonstrates its commitment to helping protect our environment through these programs."

#### ABOUT LA METRO

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is unique among the nation's transportation agencies. It serves as transportation planner and coordinator, designer, builder and operator for one of the country's largest, most populous counties. More than 9.6 million people – nearly one-third of California's residents – live, work, and play within its 1,433-square-mile service area.

#### ABOUT COMMUTER CHECK BENEFIT SOLUTIONS

Commuter Check Benefit Solutions is a transit and parking voucher program that allows companies to take advantage of the Qualified Transportation Fringe Benefit, a federal tax incentive for employees and employers alike. Also known as IRS Code Section 132(f), the incentive allows employees to set aside up to \$110 per month pre-tax for transit benefits and \$215 per month pre-tax for parking benefits. In effect, employees can pay commuting and parking expenses with tax-free dollars without increasing overall compensation costs for employers. In fact, employers actually save on payroll taxes with every participating employee. For employees, this could equate to more than \$1,500 in annual tax savings and employers can save eight to ten percent on payroll taxes.

#### ABOUT ACCOR SERVICES USA

Accor Services USA is a leader in innovative employee benefits solutions and premier provider of national commuter benefit programs: Commuter Check Benefit Solutions, a nationwide transit and parking voucher program sold directly to employers; and Wired-Commute, a program for private labeled commuter benefits sold through third party administrators. Its mission is to make tax-free commuter benefits a staple in employee benefits packages throughout the American workplace – while helping protect the environment.

#### THE BENEFITS OF COMMUTER CHECK BENEFIT SOLUTIONS

ACCOR SERVICES USA'S COMMUTER CHECK BENEFIT SOLUTIONS HELP EMPLOYERS OF ANY SIZE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FEDERAL TAX CODE (SECTION 132) THAT ALLOWS EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE BOTH SUBSIDIZED AND NON-SUBSIDIZED TAX-FREE TRANSIT, VANPOOL AND PARKING BENEFITS TO EMPLOYEES. COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL SALARY INCREASES OR BONUSES, COMMUTER CHECK PROVIDES SUPERIOR AFTER-TAX VALUE. EMPLOYEES RECEIVE THE COMPLETE VALUE, WITHOUT HAVING INCOME TAX, FICA AND MEDICARE DEDUCTED. EMPLOYERS SAVE FICA PLUS DISABILITY, UNEMPLOYMENT, WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION AND OTHER PAYROLL-LINKED COSTS.

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