

Contact:  
Francisco Oaxaca  
Metrolink Media Relations  
Phone (213) 452-0255  
Email: oaxacaf@scrra.net

700 S. Flower Street,  
26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017



# News Release

## **Metrolink Board of Directors takes action to help victims of train collision**

LOS ANGELES, CA, Sept. 17, 2008:

At its meeting of September 17, 2008, the Southern California Regional Rail Authority Board of Directors, operators of Metrolink commuter train service took the following actions:

- Unanimously approved the creation of a Victims Assistance Fund. The fund, proposed in a motion by board Vice Chairman and Moorpark Councilman Keith Millhouse, will solicit public and private donations and will provide a cushion to help mitigate expenses incurred by immediate family members of individuals involved in the collision between a Union Pacific freight train and a Metrolink commuter train in Chatsworth on September 12, 2008.
- Unanimously approved the creation of a Temporary Assistance Fund with an appropriation of \$200,000. This fund will be used to expedite advance payment of certain costs incurred by victims' families, typically reimbursed through the agency's claims process, such as funeral expenses.
- A Ventura County Line passenger compensation program to provide for a complete refund to any rider who chose not to continue riding the train after September 12, 2008.

“The tragedy of September 12 has touched the Metrolink family and my city of Moorpark deeply,” said Metrolink board Vice-Chairman and Moorpark City Councilman Keith Millhouse. “Many families have been affected by what happened last Friday and the Metrolink Board of Directors has taken action to offer them as much help as possible.”

“A mechanism to provide immediate assistance and cut through red tape was needed to help families now,” said Metrolink board Chairman and Temecula Councilman Ron Roberts. “The Temporary Assistance Fund gives us a way to help people now when they really need the help.”

In a separate action, the board unanimously approved a motion to support Senate Bill 3943, The Rail Collision Prevention Act, authored by California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. The proposed legislation calls for U.S. passenger railroads to develop and submit a plan for implementation of a positive train control system by December 31, 2014 within 12 months of the passage of the bill.

For train schedules and directions to the nearest Metrolink station check at [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com) or call (800) 371-LINK.

Metrolink is Southern California’s regional commuter rail service and is in its 15th year of operations. The Southern California Regional Rail Authority, a joint powers authority made up of an 11-member board representing the transportation commissions of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties, governs the service. Metrolink continues to be one of the nation’s fastest growing commuter rail services, operating over seven routes through a six-county 512 route-mile network.

###