



METROLINK®

PRESS RELEASE

Date: November 18, 2016
Contact: John Standiford
Deputy Executive Director
(951) 787-7969

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Take Metrolink to the 24th Annual Festival of Lights Event in Riverside for only \$7 for Adults and Free for Children Under 18

Special trains service from throughout Riverside, Los Angeles and Orange Counties sponsored by the Riverside County Transportation Commission

On the day after Thanksgiving, the switch is thrown on to start what USA Today calls, “The Best Public Lights Display in the Nation,” featuring approximately 4.5 million lights and a dazzling fireworks display. It’s the beginning of the 24th annual Festival of Lights holiday celebration at Riverside’s Mission Inn Hotel and Spa.

This year’s Festival of Lights becomes even more festive with special Metrolink trains slated to bring passengers to the area on Friday and Saturday nights allowing holiday revelers a stress-free way to get to the festival without the challenge of driving or parking in Downtown Riverside.

Revelers can catch a train to this event from Riverside, Los Angeles and Orange counties for only \$7. For each ticket purchased, up to three children under the age of 18 can ride for free.

Train service will be offered on the 91/Perris Valley Line route originating from South Perris Station and heading north to Riverside as well as on the same line

-MORE-

originating in Los Angeles with stops on the way in Norwalk, Buena Park, Fullerton and Corona.

The special trains are timed to arrive in Riverside in the late afternoon on Fridays and Saturdays and depart after 9:15 p.m.

The special trains are a joint effort between Metrolink and the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and are intended to familiarize residents with Metrolink trains while bringing visitors to the well-known Holiday of Lights celebration.

"This event attracts more than 250,000 visitors throughout the holiday season, so if you plan on going, make it easier for your family and take the train!" said Karen Spiegel, a Corona City Councilwoman who serves on the Metrolink Board of Directors and as a Commissioner on RCTC.

In addition to the lights and fireworks, highlights of Festival of Lights include more than 400 animated figures including angels, elves and Dickens carolers; appearances by Santa Claus; the world's largest man-made mistletoe measuring 12' x 8'; horse-drawn carriage rides; freshly fallen snow; elaborately decorated Christmas trees in the lobby and throughout the hotel; and delectable holiday confections.

"This is a great opportunity for families across Southern California to take a Metrolink train to one of the country's most beautiful holiday light displays," said Metrolink Chair Shawn Nelson, who is also a member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors. "For less than \$20, a family of five with two adults and three children can travel **round-trip** from Los Angeles or Orange counties all the way to Riverside."

The Festival of Lights service will be offered on Friday and Saturday evenings from Nov. 25 through Dec. 17, with special early train service on Nov. 25 for the official lighting celebration. Connecting bus service from the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) will provide connecting bus service to the Mission Inn from the Riverside Downtown Metrolink station.

**A detailed schedule for the service is attached to this news release and can be found at www.metrolinktrains.com/FOL*