

# **METRO News Release**

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## **METRO ridership off to a positive start**

**PHOENIX** — For January 2009, METRO ridership totals 911,883 boardings, resulting in an average weekday ridership of 30,617, average Saturday ridership of 31,331 and average Sunday and holiday ridership of 23,815.

“We are delighted with the community’s response to the system and their turn out. We hope to see this success continue with more and more people integrating light rail into their transportation plans,” said Councilman Tom Simplot, METRO’s board chairman.

During the extensive planning for METRO, an average weekday ridership of 26,000 daily boardings was projected for its first year of operation. METRO will continue to monitor ridership and report new totals each month. “The METRO team is hard at work to provide a high level of service that keeps customers coming back to light rail,” said METRO CEO Rick Simonetta. “We are extremely pleased with these preliminary numbers and hope to see them continue to exceed our projections over the course of this first year.”