

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Gas Prices Fuel Bus Ridership Aboard SYVT**

Solvang, CA – Two years of record-high gasoline prices have forced auto-dependent Americans to do something they have not done in more than two decades: Drive less. The mounting cost of gasoline may be changing the habits of some Santa Ynez Valley commuters. Officials say the recent trend may account for the increase in ridership on Santa Ynez Valley Transit.

Santa Ynez Valley Transit (SYVT) counted over 2,900 passenger boardings in April, translating into a 9.6 percent ridership increase over April 2006. Boardings over the past 12 months totaled more than 39,400, a 9 percent improvement over the previous 12 months.

“We’re pleased to see the community taking advantage of the many benefits of public transit,” commented Solvang City Manager, Brad Vidro. “With summer approaching, we look forward to seeing more residents and visitors experiencing the convenience and affordability SYVT has to offer.”

SYVT operates from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday linking Santa Ynez, Solvang, Buellton, and Los Olivos. A single adult cash fare is \$1.50. Discounted rates are available to seniors, children, and persons with disabilities. For more information including routes and schedules, please call (805) 688-5452 or visit [www.syvt.com](http://www.syvt.com).

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