

# Metro News

## **New Metro Rapid Service In Mid-Cities And Valley To Start June 29**

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- > Gateway Cities' shuttle lines debut
- > Tiny cameras helping law enforcement
- > Sheriff's Security Assistants added
- > Rapidway construction picks up
- > Buses will soon carry more passengers
- > Metro San Gabriel Valley council meetings open to public





Ridership on Wilshire/Whittier and Ventura boulevard corridors has gone up by 40% since the start of Metro Rapid service in June 2000. One-third of that increase is made up of passengers new to transit.



Metro Gateway Cities General Manager Richard Rogers (left) and Division 9 Operator Sam Morales discuss schedule for new Metro Bus shuttle lines 611 and 612.

## Metro Rapid Coming To Florence Avenue, Van Nuys Boulevard

Metro Rapid, which improves travel time by up to 30% over conventional bus service, will debut on Florence Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard on June 29.

The Florence Metro Rapid (Line 711) will travel along Florence Avenue between Garfield Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard and serve the communities of Bell Gardens, Bell, Huntington Park, South Los Angeles and Inglewood.

The Van Nuys Metro Rapid (Line 761) will operate along Van Nuys Boulevard and the San Diego Freeway between Foothill Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard. The line will serve the communities of Lakeview Terrace, Pacoima, Panorama City, Van Nuys, Sherman Oaks and Westwood. MN

## New Gateway Cities Shuttles Will Connect With Metro Rail

Two new shuttle lines that will service residential, commercial and industrial centers will begin operating in Metro Gateway Cities on June 29.

Shuttle lines 611 and 612 will run in Huntington Park, Vernon, Maywood, Bell, South Gate, Cudahy, Lynwood and the Watts, Florence and Willowbrook areas.

The 38 to 43-seat shuttles will pick up passengers every 30 minutes along routes that include the Imperial/Wilmington/Rosa Parks, Firestone, Florence and Vernon Metro Rail stations.

Additional weekday and weekend service with more night and early morning trips also will begin in Metro Gateway Cities on June 29. MN

## New Buses Carry More People

MTA has ordered 200 60-foot buses featuring 50% more seats than today's 40-foot conventional buses to help reduce overcrowding.

"The MTA Board is committed to modernizing the bus fleet and improving the quality of service," said MTA Board Chairman Hal Bernson.

Resembling two buses attached by an accordion-like fold, articulated buses will be deployed on MTA's busiest bus lines including Metro Rapid by the summer of 2005.

First on the scene will be the roomier 45-foot CompoBUS. An initial 30 will arrive late this year and another 70 in 2004. This particular bus seats 46 passengers, six more than standard buses. MN

## Valley Metro Rapidway Proceeding As Planned

MTA has awarded a major construction contract for the 14-mile San Fernando Valley Metro Rapidway which will save commuters up to 40 minutes a day.

When it opens in 2005, the Rapidway will operate between Warner Center in the West Valley and the North Hollywood Metro Rail Station, an entry point for the expanding Metro Rail system that crisscrosses LA County with light rail lines and a subway.

Special 60-foot buses with 50% more seating capacity than typical Metro Buses will proceed nearly non-stop along a former rail right-of-way being converted into the Rapidway. Stops will be made at 13 stations spaced about one mile apart. MN



Metro San Gabriel Valley General Manager Jack Gabig (fifth from left) with new Governance Council members (L-R) Harry Baldwin, Emile J. Bayle, Sharon Martinez, Bart Doyle, Sid Tyler, Rosie Vasquez and David Spence.

## San Gabriel Valley Governance Council Teams Up With Public To Improve Service

In order to quicken bus service improvements, the new Metro San Gabriel Valley Governance Council is holding monthly public meetings.

Meetings are held in the Grapevine Room, 324 South Mission, adjacent to the San Gabriel Mission at the corner of Mission Drive and Santa Anita Street, every first Tuesday of the month starting at 5 p.m.

Members include those elected by the Council of Governments and nominated by the LA County supervisorial districts.

For more information, call 626.454.2840, fax 626.454.2811, or send an e-mail to ortizh@mta.net MN



Mike Rivas and fellow Sheriff's deputies can respond more quickly to potential problems on Metro Buses with the help of tiny cameras.

## Mini Cameras Catch Crooks In The Act

Tiny cameras hidden on Metro Buses are helping LA County Sheriff's deputies make the Metro Bus system even safer.

Live images transmitted from buses to deputies in patrol cars are closely monitored for any hint of problems and to improve response time.

"Regarding this crime-stopping partnership with MTA, we continue to arrest the bad guys and are even happier when we can prevent crime before it happens," said Sheriff's Lt. Mike Parker. MN

## Sheriff's Security Assistants Helping Subway Passengers

A new group of uniformed officers whose duties will include fare enforcement and passenger assistance have been deployed on the Metro Red Line.

Outfitted in white shirts and navy blue trousers, the Sheriff's Security Assistants will serve as an extra set of eyes and ears for deputies. Beginning this summer, the fare inspectors also will work on the Metro Gold Line.

When not checking for proof of fare, the 50 assistants, who can issue citations, help customers use the ticket vending machines, provide directions and answer questions about Metro Rail. MN