

# Metro News

## MTA Begins Building Valley Metro Rapid Transitway

### Other stories:

- > Two new Metro Rapid lines on horizon
- > MTA orders more longer, spacious buses
- > LA County Supervisor tests Metro Gold Line
- > Rail safety efforts accelerated
- > Diners delight over expanded rideshare plan
- > New night bus stop service is a wise move





Building materials delivered to Sepulveda Basin site are being used to construct bus bridge over LA River along San Fernando Valley Metro Rapid Transitway Project.



MTA Board Member and LA County Supervisor Michael Antonovich takes in sights from Metro Gold Line during test ride.

## Full Speed Ahead For Valley Bus Transitway

The San Fernando Valley Metro Rapid Transitway, now being built, will save passengers up to 20 minutes in time versus using regular Metro Bus service covering the same distance.

The 14-mile transitway, expected to begin operating in 2005, will link the North Hollywood Metro Rail Station with Warner Center in the West Valley.

One-way trips on the buses-only lanes between the rail station and the west terminal will reduce current travel time by up to 30%. [MN](#)

## All Aboard, Soon! Gold Line Safety Testing Continues

Area elected officials and community leaders took a test ride on the 13.7-mile Los Angeles to Pasadena Metro Gold Line, opening in mid-2003.

Featuring 13 stations, the light rail line will connect with the entire Metro Rail system.

The Metro Gold Line will travel between downtown Los Angeles and East Pasadena serving Lincoln Heights, Mount Washington, Highland Park, South Pasadena and Pasadena.

Metro Rail now serves such communities as downtown Los Angeles, Mid-Wilshire, Long Beach, Norwalk, Redondo Beach, Hollywood, Universal City and North Hollywood. [MN](#)

## Rail Safety Outreach Program Expands

By the time the Los Angeles to Pasadena Metro Gold Line opens in mid-2003, an estimated 100,000 school-children and adults will have participated in MTA's ongoing Rail Safety Education and Outreach Program.

Before train testing began last fall, presentations were scheduled at all unified school district schools located close to the 13.7-mile light rail route.

"The idea is to saturate the area with our message," said Lynda Bybee, MTA deputy executive officer for Community Relations. "The goal is zero accidents. That's the purpose of the campaign." [MN](#)

## MTA Board Repeats Bus-Stretching Exercise



More high-capacity buses are on order. These 46-seat buses will provide more seats for passengers.

First ordered in January 2002, the 45-foot futuristic-looking buses are lighter in weight and propelled by environmentally healthier compressed natural gas. They can seat six more passengers than other low-floor buses in service.

The first 30 buses are expected to arrive late this year. The 70 additional buses should arrive in late 2004 and will be deployed throughout the system. [MN](#)

## MTA Looking Out For Riders After Dark

Night Owl Stops, a new Metro Bus program, is saving passengers a lot of wear and tear.

Metro Bus passengers riding after 9 p.m. and before 5 a.m. can now ask bus operators to drop them off at a location that is not a designated bus stop.

The service allows passengers to reach their final destinations much more quickly, less tired and feeling much more secure about their surroundings.

Drop-off points must adhere to traffic and safety regulations, and are at the operator's discretion. [MN](#)

## Two New Metro Rapid Lines To Open This Spring

Two new Metro Rapid lines will be opening in June, allowing passengers to receive faster bus service.

Van Nuys Metro Rapid will span 21.4 miles, make 20 stops and pass through Westwood, Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley. Buses will run every six minutes during peak hours.

Florence Metro Rapid will extend 10.3 miles, make 13 stops and service Bell Gardens, Bell, Huntington Park and Los Angeles. Buses will run every five minutes during peak hours.

Both bus lines will be at least 20 percent faster than the current Metro Bus service as a result of fewer stops and traffic signal priority at intersections. [MN](#)

## MTA Rideshare Program Is Also Culinary Delight

One of MTA's most popular rideshare programs, which rewards participants who have been ridesharing for at least three months with an array of savings at LA County restaurants and attractions, has been expanded to all firms.

Previously only offered to employers with fewer than 250 workers, Club Metro now permits employers with more than 250 workers to sign up.

Besides experiencing lower stress, fuel costs and speedier commutes, Club Metro members are automatically entered into a quarterly drawing with winners receiving \$100 gift certificates.

Traveling by bus and rail are among the acceptable forms of ridesharing.

For more information, call Derek Callier at 213.922.5669 or the Metro Commute Services hotline at 213.922.2811. [MN](#)

MTA Club Metro rideshare participants receive an entertainment booklet with numerous discount coupons and savings for restaurants and attractions.

