

Metro News

Nearly 160,000 Discover Metro Gold Line

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Newly opened Metro Gold Line draws a crowd at Union Station.



Recently inaugurated Metro Rapid service on Florence Avenue includes this stop at the Florence Metro Rail Station.

Metro Gold Line Opening More Than Up To Speed

Nearly 160,000 people celebrated the festive grand opening of the 13.7-mile LA-Pasadena Metro Gold Line by riding for free and enjoying a wide-range of entertainment, community festivals, exhibits, food and refreshments.

Greeting passengers at 13 new stations were over 400 volunteers, LA County Sheriff's Department deputies, who patrol the entire Metro System, and even actors clad in gold mime attire.

"I think the Gold Line train is exactly what the city needed to cut traffic and time spent on the roads," said rider Elizabeth Miles from Pasadena. "People are going to ride this train and hopefully this will let the right people know that we appreciate the train and look forward to the expansion of the light rail system."

In 2009, the six-mile Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension will provide service to East Los Angeles with a connection to the entire Metro Rail system. [MN](#)

New Metro Rapid Lines Open In City And Valley

Signature red Metro Rapid buses, which enjoy signal priority at major intersections, are saving customers up to 25% in travel time versus standard buses on Van Nuys Boulevard and Florence Avenue.

"Our goal is to ensure the safe delivery of people to their destinations in a fast and reliable manner," said MTA Deputy CEO John Catoe. "With the opening of our newest Metro Rapid lines, MTA looks forward to offering the same fast and reliable service to thousands more passengers so they realize that riding public transportation is a better option than driving their cars."

Following the opening of the next Metro Rapid line on Crenshaw Boulevard in December, new lines will open on Soto Street and Vernon Avenue/La Cienega Boulevard next June, giving LA County a total of nine lines. [MN](#)

Metro Bus Beach Service Is A Shore Thing

With another month of summer left to go, instant relief from still soaring heat can be found on air-conditioned, beach-bound Metro Buses.

Metro Westside/Central customers can get to both Santa Monica Beach via Lines 4 and 20 and Venice Beach with Line 33. Express Line 434 travels to Malibu and Limited Service Line 302 takes passengers to Pacific Palisades and Will Rogers Beach.

Metro Gateway Cities customers can use Line 130 which stops in Redondo Beach, while Metro South Bay area passengers can go directly to Marina del Rey (Line 108), Redondo Beach (Line 439) and San Pedro Beach (Lines 445, 446, 447 and 550).

To ensure safety, surfboards and bare feet are not allowed on buses. [MN](#)

Security Grant Will Help Fortify Metro System

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has awarded MTA a \$4.57 million grant to reinforce safety and security measures on the Metro System and to invest in new protection technologies.

"This means a lot to the overall security of the system," said Capt. Dan Finkelstein, also MTA's chief of Transit Police. "It gives us the opportunity to add the newest technology to our existing equipment and work smarter in preventing future problems."

MTA previously received \$50,000 from Homeland Security and has requested an additional \$11.4 million in security funding from Congress. [MN](#)



Fourteen colorful and collectible trading cards designed by the artists Meat Collective promote proper Metro manners.

Trading Cards Teach Kids Proper Transit Etiquette

Mind your manners! MTA has begun distributing sets of trading cards which teach youth who have participated in MTA's safety outreach programs and tours good etiquette on Metro Bus and Metro Rail.

A variety of games, including matching up the cards like dominoes and separating the good behaviors from the bad, can be played with the vibrant and colorful cards featuring original characters such as "Loud Cellphone Guy," "The Blab Sisters," "Booming Beats Boy" and "Little Miss Feet on the Seat."

The cards come in colorful foil-wrapped packs of five cards each and there are 14 different cards to collect.

Metro Art, the MTA's public art program, commissioned Meat Collective, a local group of artists, to create the cards. [MN](#)



The Gateway Cities Governance Council is comprised of seated (left to right): Cynde Soto (transit consumer, Long Beach); Jo Ann Eros-Delgado (transit consumer, Whittier); Council Vice-Chair Jacqueline Rynerson (transit consumer, Lakewood), and standing (left to right): Council Chair Samuel Pena (Maywood mayor pro tem); Larry Nelson (Artesia Councilmember); Wally Shidler, (transit consumer, Walnut Park); and Bonnie Lowenthal (Long Beach City Councilmember).

Public Invited To Engage Gateway Cities Governance Council Members

The Gateway Cities Governance Council, established recently to oversee bus improvements that reflect the expressed needs of Metro System riders, is now holding ongoing public meetings.

The council works closely with MTA's Metro Gateway Cities service sector in evaluating and planning service.

The state's budget deficit and the impact on local transportation projects, MTA's Safety's First program, route assessment and planning

processes have been among the issues discussed at recent meetings, which are held at 2 pm on the second Thursday, at Progress Park, 1550 Downey Ave., Paramount.

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