

Metro News

Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Construction Begins

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Next stop: East LA.

Metro employees Julio Chavez, Luis Inzunza and Ramon Reilly take their turns at breaking ground for the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension July 17.

Work Begins On Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension

It's official: work has begun on a light rail line to connect the Eastside with downtown Los Angeles and the entire Metro Rail system. The opening of the Metro Gold Line extension is projected for December 2009.

The six-mile line, approved for funding in June by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), will feature eight stations between Union Station in downtown Los Angeles, and Pomona and Atlantic boulevards.

Along the way, the line will serve the Little Tokyo Arts District, Aliso Village and East LA. There also will be a 1.8-mile underground segment through Boyle Heights.

"We are very grateful to the FTA and Congress for acknowledging the regional significance of this project, and for the efforts of the California delegation of elected officials, community leaders and Metro staff," said Metro CEO Roger Snoble. MN



Sheriff's deputies Jason Roberts and Allen Jacobs discuss a possible case of fare evasion on Metro Rail train with fare inspectors Lakeisha Fielders and Adrian Zuniga who radioed them for assistance.

60 Fare Inspectors Added to Blue and Green Lines

Over the next few months, 60 fare inspectors will be deployed to the Metro Blue and Green lines, creating an even safer environment for passengers at stations and on trains.

"Fare inspectors are a vital resource in monitoring passenger fare payments and help to get law enforcement officers information quickly when problems arise," said Metro Executive Officer Carolyn Flowers. "Having more civilian security assistants will provide additional safety and more visibility on the rail lines."

A total of 110 fare inspectors assigned to Metro's four rail lines are trained in first aid and evacuation procedures. They also carry two-way radios to communicate with the hundreds of Sheriff's deputies who patrol the Metro Rail and Metro Bus systems. MN

Eastside Extension Office Open in Boyle Heights

With construction of Los Angeles' newest rail project now underway, staff at Metro's new field office in Boyle Heights offers information to area residents about the six-mile extension which will open in 2009.

Have a question about the Metro Gold Line's Eastside Extension? The field office is located at 1505 East 1st St., between Clarence and Gless streets. The phone number is 213.922.2259.

"We want to be a responsive neighbor and enrich these communities by providing resources and improving the quality of life," said Yvette Robles, Metro senior community relations officer. "We are working to involve the Eastside neighborhoods with this project." MN

Lose Something? Check Metro's Lost And Found

Lost something on a Metro Bus or Metro Rail?

Check with Metro's Lost and Found department in the Wilshire Metro Customer Center. That's often where lost wallets, purses, backpacks, bus passes, cell phones, keys, glasses and any number of personal items can be found.

With proper identification, items usually are returned to their owners within 48 hours.

The Metro Customer Center, which is open from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, is located at 5301 Wilshire Blvd. Customers also may call the Lost and Found at 323.937.8920 from 11 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. MN



Metro Rapid expansion to speed service along 77 route miles.

Five Metro Rapid Lines Will Open Within Year

The innovative Metro Rapid System will grow by five lines in the next ten months. That's an addition of 77 route miles. Metro Rapid saves passengers, on average, 20% in travel time over conventional bus service.

In December, lines will be opened in the Hawthorne and Hollywood/Pasadena areas. In June 2005, lines will be added on Long Beach and Beverly boulevards, and on Sepulveda Boulevard in the San Fernando Valley.

The five new lines, which will serve Vernon, Huntington Park, South Gate, Lynwood, Compton, Long Beach, Beverly Hills and other cities, represents a nearly 50% increase in Metro Rapid service. MN



Bus Operator Linda Wilkison supports "Watch the Road" safety campaign, which encourages good driving, biking and walking.

'Watch the Road' Campaign Targets Bad Habits

"Slow down, your family is waiting for you," reads one of Metro's new "Watch the Road" safety campaign ads featured on Metro Buses, bus shelters and benches.

The 18-month campaign, co-sponsored by Metro, focuses on the careless habits of automobile drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians. Improving safety on the roads will mean fewer accidents, less congested highways and faster commutes for everyone.

"It's better to lose one minute of your life than your life in one minute." A good safety tip, whether you're driving, biking or walking.

In June, the Watch the Road campaign received \$1.5 million in grant money from the federal government to purchase media air time to get the message out. MN

In the past five years, 3,550 people in LA County died due to traffic crashes. Another 440,000 people were injured. The top 10 roadway user bad behaviors are:

- Driving too fast for conditions
- Aggressive driving
- Inattentive driving
- Failure to yield to pedestrians
- Driving under the influence
- Driving through red lights
- Bicycling against traffic
- Bicycling through a red light
- Walking without looking
- Walking outside crosswalk