

Metro News

Spacious Metro Buses Expected By Summer

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Metro[™]



Longer and more spacious Metro Buses that sport both a nostalgic and modern look will begin arriving this spring.



Los Angeles Sheriff's Deputy Gary De Bondt patrols El Monte Bus Station from 2-wheel, electrically charged Segway scooter.

New Metro Buses – Roomier – Additional Seats

Metro's bus fleet of the future will begin arriving in several months and heralds the beginning of a new era of more spacious, comfortable, quieter and safer coaches with low floors for easier access.

Built with a crash-resistant fiberglass composite body, the revolutionary 45-foot lighter-weight CompoBUS runs on compressed natural gas and seats 46 passengers, as compared to 40 passengers on standard buses.

"Customers will enjoy substantially more interior space than found on current 40-foot models," said Metro Vehicle Technology Director Michael Bottone.

By early summer, the buses could be assigned to Metro Rapid lines. [MN](#)

Sheriff's Department Increases Presence At El Monte Bus Station

Responding to patron requests, customer safety and service have increased at the El Monte Bus Station, located just north of the San Bernardino Freeway at Santa Anita Avenue and Ramona Boulevard.

The LA County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Transit Bureau has increased patrols of the station, which recently opened a transit store that is selling Metro passes.

"The El Monte Bus Station has increased services to customers and become safer than ever, since Sheriffs opened an office next door to the station," said Metro San Gabriel General Manager Jack Gabig. [MN](#)

Metrolink Riders Become Part Of EZ Transit Pass Program

Metrolink passengers, who pay as much as \$309 each month for a pass, can now travel a lot further at no extra charge.

Metrolink customers with passes and same-day fare can ride free on Metro as well as 16 municipal operators, including Foothill Transit, the Glendale Beeline, LADOT, Long Beach Transit, Santa Clarita Transit and others. There is an extra charge for express service when applicable.

The price for a regular EZ Transit Pass for non-Metrolink passengers is \$58, however, seniors/disabled/Medicare pay only \$29 with valid proof of status. [MN](#)

New Limited Stop Service Added To South Bay Area

Two faster limited service lines in the South Bay will reduce customer travel time beginning on February 2 because the buses stop only at major intersections. Both lines will operate Monday through Friday.

Line 358 will provide limited service on Slauson Avenue between Fox Hills Mall and Eastern Avenue. Line 312 will provide limited service on La Brea Avenue between Market Street and Manchester Boulevard to the Hollywood/Vine Metro Rail Station.

In addition, customers can expect travel time on limited service Line 340 from King and Crenshaw boulevards to the new north terminal at 7th and Maple streets to be reduced. Meanwhile, the limited stop area of Line 357 will be extended to operate from Manchester Avenue to the Hollywood/Western Metro Rail Station. [MN](#)



Metro's Jaime Carrington looks at Gardena Christian School student carpooler's homework.

Metro Develops A New Kids School Rideshare Program

Metro's new School Pool rideshare program helps parents find other parents who would like to share the responsibility of safely driving their children to and from school.

Customized parent surveys gathered by schools participating in the program help Metro produce matchlists of families interested in carpooling. Then it's up to the families to get acquainted and set up carpools that work for them.

The program is an innovative addition to Metro Commute Services, which helps people find alternatives to driving alone. [MN](#)

Crimes Database Lead Deputies to Taggers

A Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) crimes database that identifies and leads to the arrest of people who vandalize Metro is helping keep Metro buses cleaner.

The database contains information on taggers obtained by the LASD and the Los Angeles Police Department. The combined information gives deputies an edge in identifying taggers with recognizable monikers/tags, which can, ultimately, lead to their arrest or prohibition from riding Metro Buses or Metro Rail.

"Finding these taggers and taking action against them enhances passenger safety and comfort," said Los Angeles Sheriff's Deputy Michael Rivas. [MN](#)



Smoother

Riding the Metro Gold Line between downtown Los Angeles and Pasadena has become more tranquil. A mobile grinding machine has removed the nooks and crannies from the track. All Metro Rail lines are maintained by the machine, which also extends the life of the rail and train wheels.

Metro Gold Line Eastside Project Will Still Be Built

The MTA is pursuing federal funding to build the six-mile Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, its highest priority rail project, with construction slated to begin later this year.

Residents and visitors will have an easy way to reach such communities as downtown Los Angeles, Little Tokyo Arts District, Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles when it opens in 2009.

"The Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension represents a welcome new chapter in the history of the Metro Rail system," said MTA CEO Roger Snoble.

The line will feature eight new stations and a 1.8-mile underground segment. Along the way, trains will cross over the 101 Freeway on a bridge. [MN](#)