

Metro News

Metro Rapid Wilshire/Whittier Becoming Faster in Beverly Hills

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Trips on the Metro Rapid Wilshire/Whittier line will become faster with the addition of bus signal priority in Beverly Hills.



Artist's rendition of Wilshire/Vermont Metro Rail Station mixed-use development slated to open in the summer of 2006.

Line 720 Customers Travel 5% Faster

With the addition of bus signal priority at 18 intersections on Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills, Metro Rapid Line 720 customers soon will travel 5% faster.

Currently, bus signal priority along the 25.7-mile Metro Rapid line saves passengers 30% in time versus local bus service.

“Establishing signal priority through this area is critical to speeding service for our customers and reducing traffic congestion,” said Metro Director of Regional Transit Planning Rex Gephart.

Santa Monica, Beverly and Olympic boulevards also are receiving the signal priority technology in preparation for three future Metro Rapid lines. [MN](#)

Development Booming Around Metro Rail Stations

In 2001, the Hollywood/Highland retail and entertainment megaplex became the first major Metro Rail public/private sector joint development to open.

Six “transit villages” — with housing, shopping and restaurants — are currently open, under construction or on the drawing boards.

The Metro Hollywood Apartments opened at the Hollywood/Western Station this spring. Housing and shopping developments are under construction at two Metro Red Line stations and a Metro Gold Line station.

Two other housing and retail complexes are on the drawing boards.

Transit villages give residents ready access to Metro Bus and Metro Rail service. Metro passengers also benefit from the shopping, dining, lodging and other amenities around the stations. [MN](#)

New San Gabriel Valley Line Saves Time

New Metro Bus limited stop service in the San Gabriel Valley is saving customers approximately 15% in travel time from the El Monte Station to downtown LA.

Line 376 makes approximately 50% fewer stops than the local Metro Bus line and operates during peak hours from 5:30 am to 8:30 am and from 3:30 pm to 6 pm.

Line 376 travels along the same route as Line 76 between El Monte Station to Grand and Washington, operating primarily on Valley Boulevard, Main Street, El Monte Station and in downtown LA. [MN](#)

Orange Line Puts Passengers First

Metro Orange Line riders can expect a myriad of passenger comforts such as covered waiting areas, ticket vending machines for purchasing pre-paid fare, electronic message boards that alert passengers to the arrival time of buses, bike lockers, artwork and landscaping.

Among the many additional features of the Metro Orange Line are parking at the Van Nuys, Sepulveda, Balboa and Winnetka stations, bikeways and pedestrian paths along the entire 14-mile route, scheduled to open in summer of 2005.

Passengers will travel between the North Hollywood Metro Rail Station and Warner Center in roomy 60-foot buses with 50% more seats than standard coaches. [MN](#)

Sheriff’s Deputies Move To Valley Increases Security

The opening of an LA County Sheriff’s Department facility in the San Fernando Valley puts deputies closer to the valley’s Metro service. The facility is located adjacent to the Metro San Fernando Valley division in Chatsworth. Previously, all deputies worked out of Metro’s downtown LA headquarters.

“Even when the deputies are in the office, they will be closer to the areas they patrol,” said Metro San Fernando Valley General Manager David Armijo. “The facility allows the deputies to form bonds with the community they serve and to devote more time to effective policing in the San Fernando Valley area.” [MN](#)

1.800.COMMUTE, Website Faster And Better

Callers to 1.800.COMMUTE and visitors to Metro’s website now receive faster and more comprehensive travel itineraries.

“This new 1.800.COMMUTE system speeds up the time it takes to gather schedule information about Metro and the 60 transit carriers our service supports,” said Metro Departmental Systems Analyst Doug Anderson.

Metro’s redesigned Trip Planner at metro.net features simple fill-out forms and user-friendly pull down menus. [MN](#)



Tough Act to Follow

Actor and environmentalist Ed Begley, Jr. arrived at Union Station to promote Bike to Work Day last spring. He was joined by 100 fellow cyclists. In the past nine years, Metro has funded 109 bikeway projects and 500 miles of bicycle lanes. It is estimated that bicyclists make up 2.4% of all the daily travel trips in LA County.



What I Did For My \$3 Vacation

Alex Gonzalez (middle) holds enlarged mockup of Metro’s \$3 Day Pass at Union Station in downtown Los Angeles shortly before he and fellow Woodrow Wilson High School students, from left, Isidro Alvarez, Jonathan Gaytan, Vanessa Nevarez and Samantha Robles embark on the “Discover LA Via Metro: the \$3 Vacation” competition for best itinerary. Teams from four local high schools traveled long distances on Metro Bus and Metro Rail to visit museums, historical landmarks, art and entertainment centers, sports arenas and other fun and exciting destinations using the pass.