

## Vermont, South Broadway Metro Rapid Lines Debut Sunday

By ED SCANNELL

(Dec. 11, 2002) MTA's successful Metro Rapid bus program is poised for a 24-line expansion that will be phased in beginning Sunday, Dec. 15, with the start of service on Vermont Avenue and South Broadway.

The 11.9-mile Vermont Metro Rapid Line 754 will operate between the Metro Red Line Vermont/Sunset Station and the Metro Green Line. The 10.5-mile South Broadway Metro Rapid Line 745 will operate on South Broadway between Union Station and the Metro Green Line.

"Metro Rapid has been a huge success story in Los Angeles and has generated considerable interest from other large cities that are trying to grapple with congestion," Mayor James Hahn said at a Wednesday morning news conference.

"These new Metro Rapid lines on Vermont Avenue and South Broadway will take a large bite out of the daily commute time of thousands of bus passengers," he added. "I'm confident that once again Metro Rapid will attract many new riders to the system."

Rides on the two new lines on Dec. 15 and 16 will be free.

### 24-line expansion

The new lines are part of a 24-line expansion of the Metro Rapid system that will be completed by 2008. They will complement the 26-mile Wilshire/Whittier and 16-mile Ventura Metro Rapid lines which began service in June 2000.

The Wilshire/Whittier Metro Rapid Line 720 currently has average weekday boardings of 45,000. Average weekday boardings on Ventura Metro Rapid Line 750 are 9,000.

"Metro Rapid is one of the most effective tools in our mobility tool box and an innovative way to transport our customers to jobs, medical facilities and places of recreation quickly and safely," said CEO Roger Snoble. "It has demonstrated that when transit makes sense, people will ride it."

MTA and LADOT anticipate that Metro Rapid service on Vermont and South Broadway will result in a 20-25 percent improvement in travel time over current service.

"LADOT is very pleased to be a partner with MTA in a project that is moving thousands of people quickly and efficiently" said LADOT General Manager Wayne Tanda. "We're looking forward to building the remaining 22 Metro Rapid expansion lines, which will greatly improve mobility in Los Angeles."

### Five-year plan

More! See: ["Three New Limited Metro Bus Lines Start Sunday"](#)

PHOTO: DANIELLE GROSSMAN



Mayor James Hahn inaugurated the new Metro Rapid service on Vermont Avenue at a Wednesday morning news conference. Below, the Mayor arrives on Metro Rapid.



PHOTO: DANIELLE BOUTIER

In addition to Vermont Avenue and South Broadway, the corridors selected for the five-year Metro Rapid expansion plan include Florence, Van Nuys, Soto, Crenshaw-Rossmore, Pico, Santa Monica, Hawthorne and Long Beach Ave.

Also, Hollywood-Fairfax-Pasadena, Western, Beverly, Vernon-La Cienega, Atlantic, Central, San Fernando-Lankershim, West Olympic, Garvey-Chavez, Manchester, San Fernando (south), Sepulveda (south), Torrance-Long Beach and Lincoln.

Total one-time capital costs for implementing the expansion are estimated at \$110.5 million which will be used to construct 24 corridors with 356 miles of bus signal priority in 34 cities and 11 Los Angeles County unincorporated communities and to construct 779 Metro Rapid stations, all with "next trip" displays.

The Metro Rapid bus program was recently selected as a semifinalist in Harvard University's 2002 Innovation in American Government Awards. Sponsored by the Ford Foundation, the awards recognize outstanding examples of creative problem solving in the public sector.

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