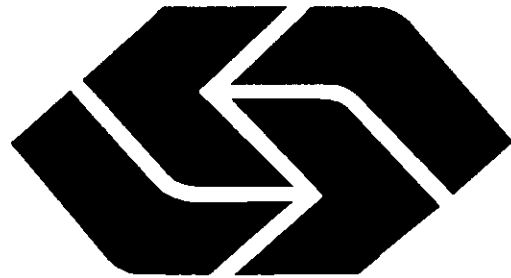


# LESSONS LEARNED FROM INITIAL TWO YEARS OF OPERATING THE METRO BLUE LINE



**RTD**

**APTA RAPID TRANSIT CONFERENCE  
June 13-17, 1992  
Los Angeles, California**

Paper 175

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# PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- I. Background Information on Metro Blue Line
- II. Pre-implementation Patronage Projections and Scheduling/Operating Constraints
- III. Actual Start-up Service Frequencies and Span of Service
- IV. Major Service and Scheduling Changes Since Start-up
- V. Summary of Lessons Learned

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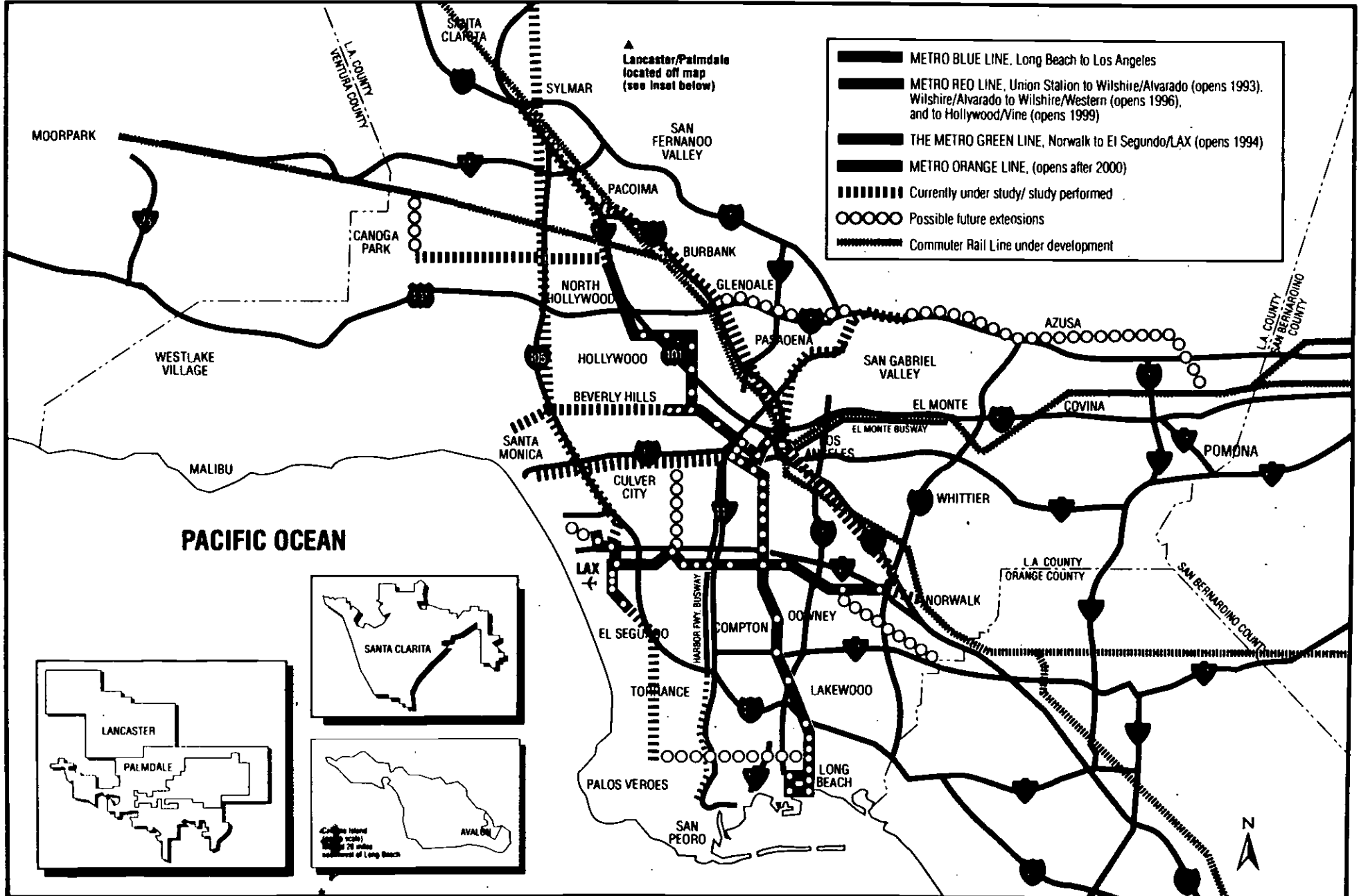
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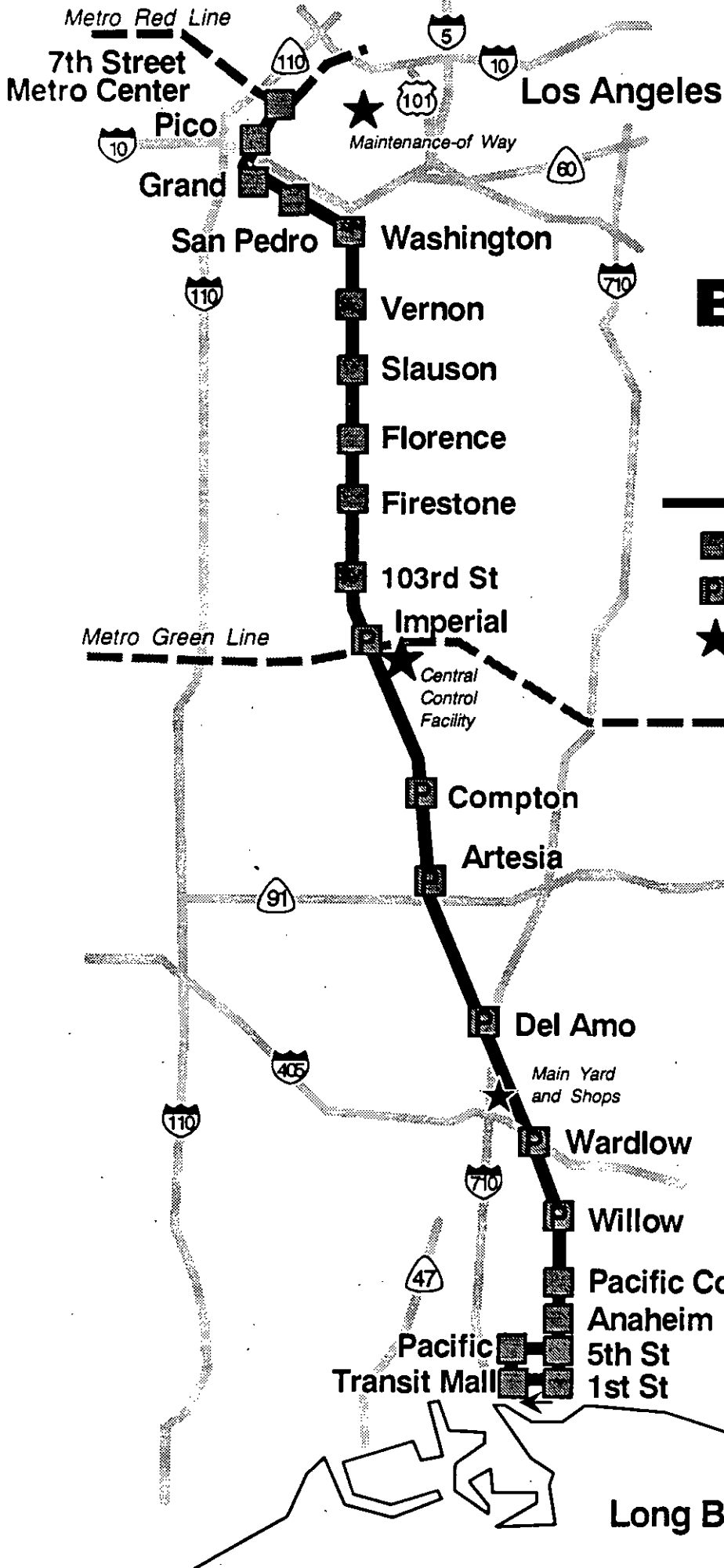
# **I. Background Information on Metro Blue Line**







# Los Angeles

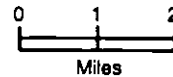
## 300-Mile Metro Rail Plan





# Metro Blue Line

-  Rail Alignment
-  Station Location
-  Stations with Parking
-  Rail Facility



# **METRO BLUE LINE FEATURES**

- **"Barrier Free" Fare System**
- **22 Miles Long**
- **22 Stations**
  - 1 Underground**
  - 18 At Grade**
  - 3 Above Grade**
- **79 Signalized Intersections**
  - (28 Have Crossing Gates)**



## **II. Pre-implementation Patronage Projections and Scheduling/ Operating Constraints**

# **RANGE OF METRO BLUE LINE RIDERSHIP PROJECTIONS (BY END OF FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION)**

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<b><u>MINIMUM</u></b>	<b><u>CONSENSUS</u></b>	<b><u>MAXIMUM</u></b>
<b>5,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>55,000</b>

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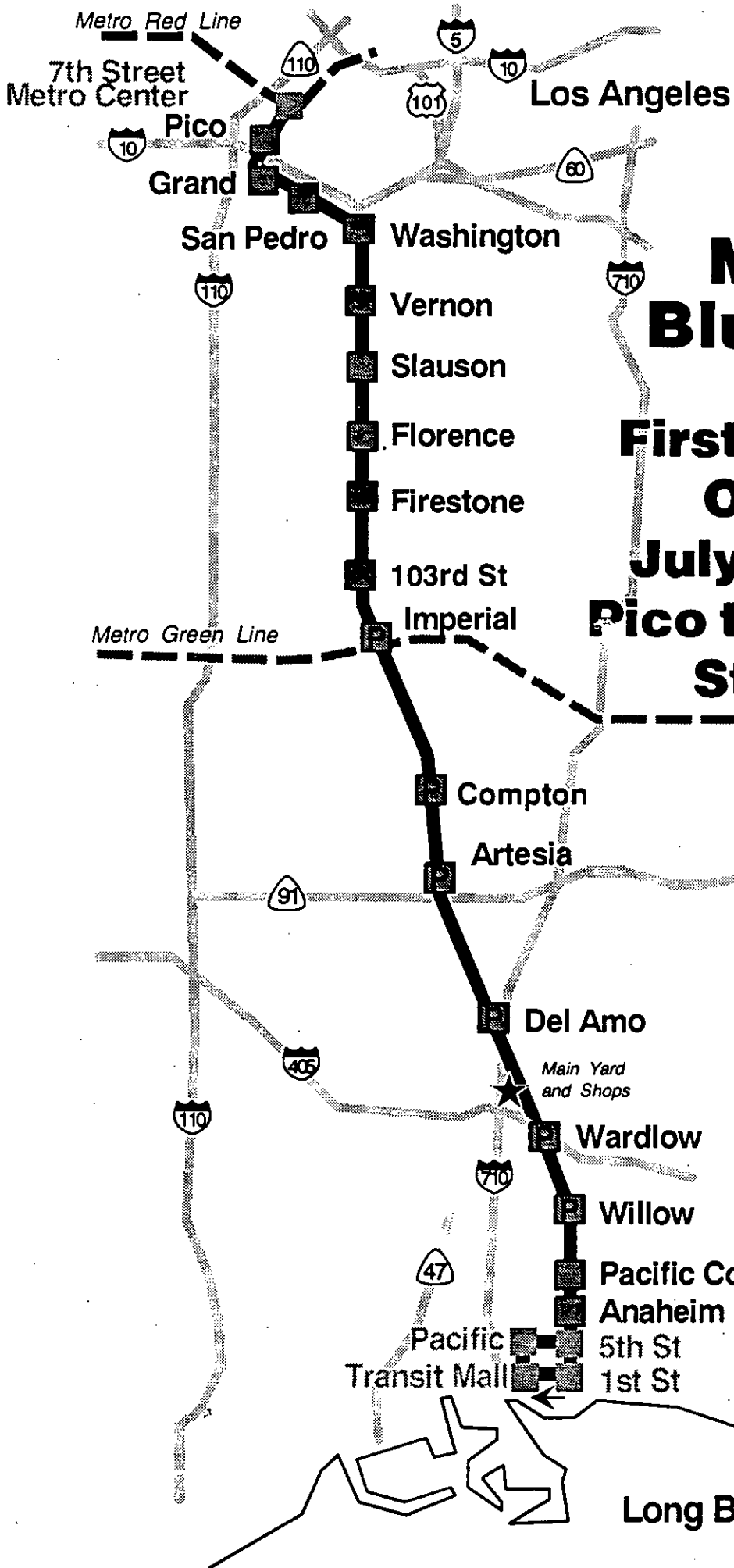


# **METRO BLUE LINE OPERATING CONSTRAINTS**

- **Station platforms are designed to accommodate a maximum of two train cars at one time**
- **Signalized, at-grade crossings along the Corridor impede running time**

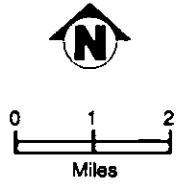


### **III. Actual Start-up Service Frequencies and Span of Service**



# Metro Blue Line

**First Segment  
Opened  
July 14, 1990  
Pico to Anaheim  
Stations**



# **METRO BLUE LINE START-UP FREQUENCY OF SERVICE**

- **Weekday 10 minutes Peak**  
**15 minutes Off-Peak**
- **Saturday 15 minutes all day**
- **Sunday 15 minutes all day**

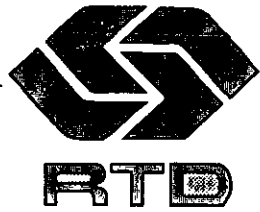


# **METRO BLUE LINE START-UP SERVICE SPAN**

- **Weekday - 4:20am to 8:00pm**
- **Saturday - 4:20am to 8:00pm**
- **Sunday - 4:20am to 8:00pm**



# **IV. Major Service and Scheduling Changes Since Start-up**

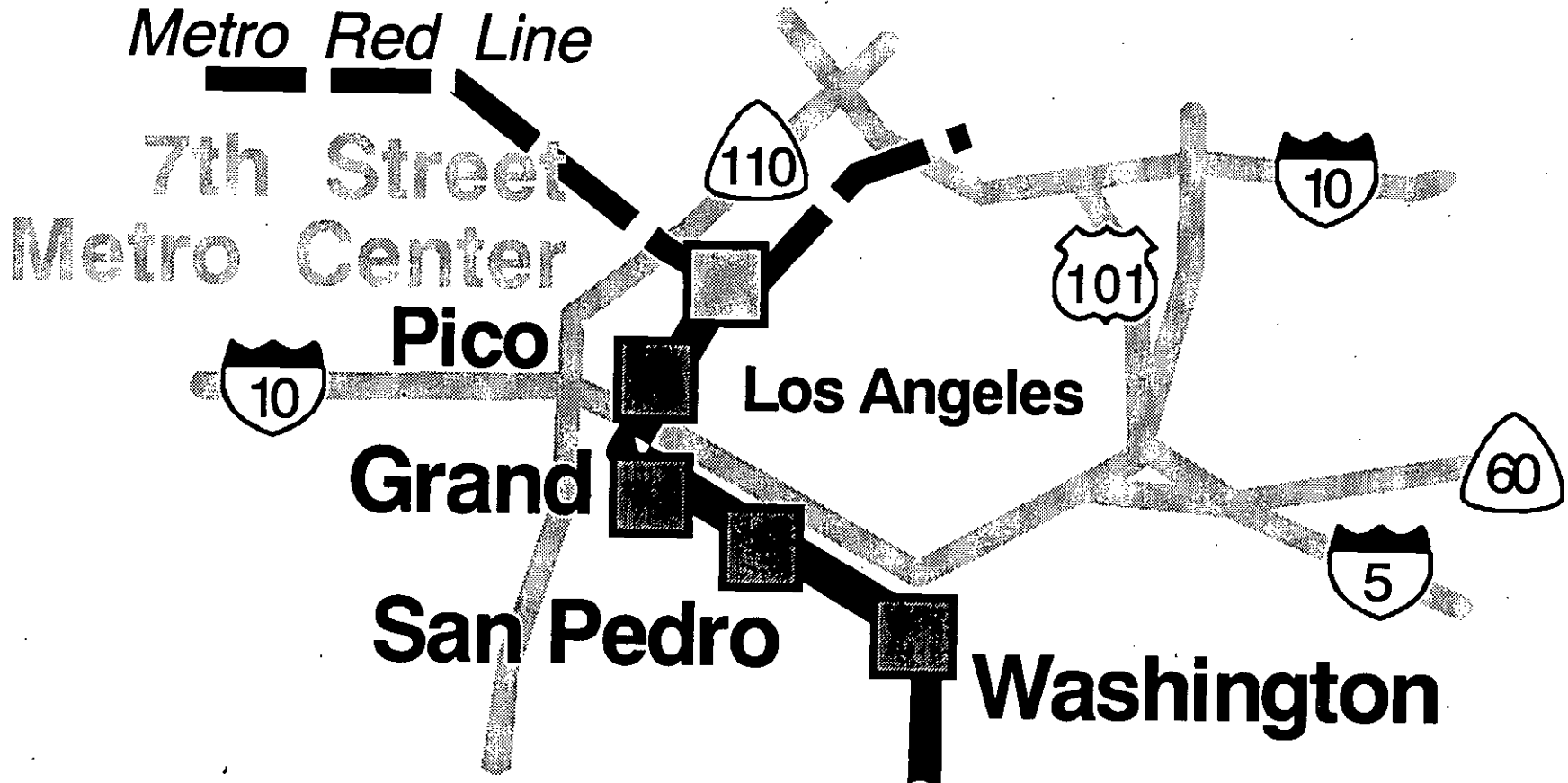


# Metro Blue Line Second Segment Opened September 1, 1990 Long Beach Loop Stations



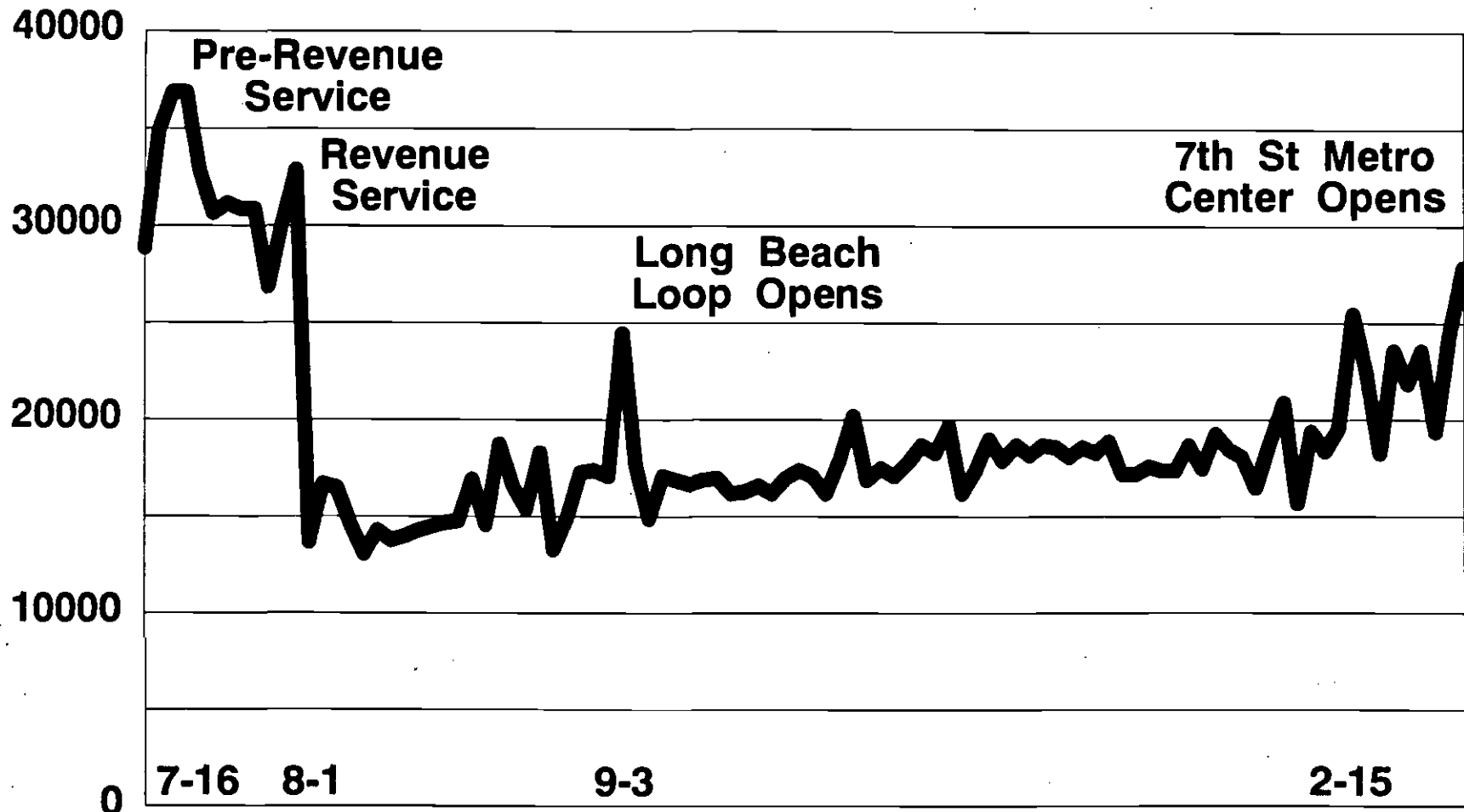


# Metro Blue Line Final Segment Opened February 14, 1991 7th Street Metro Center

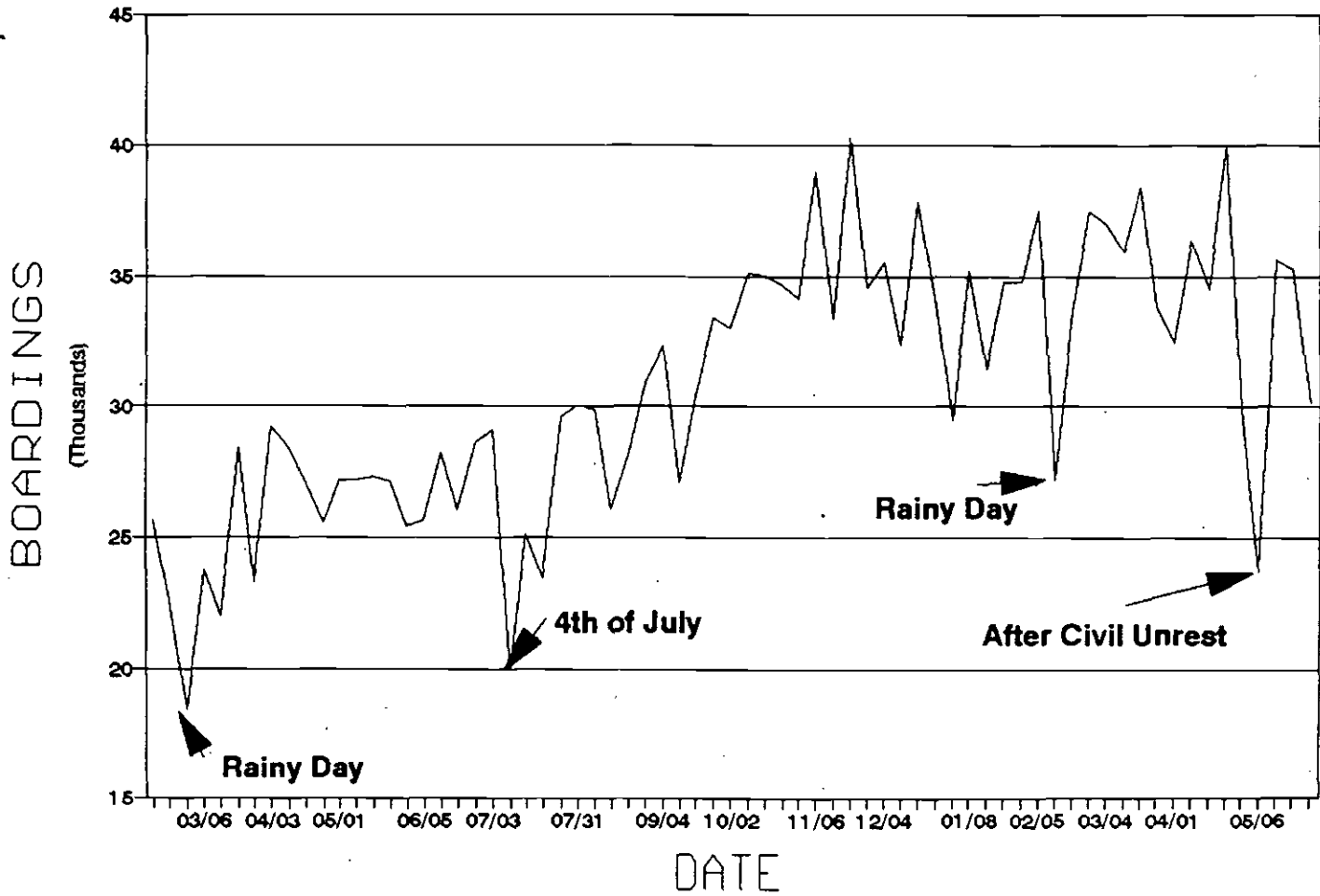




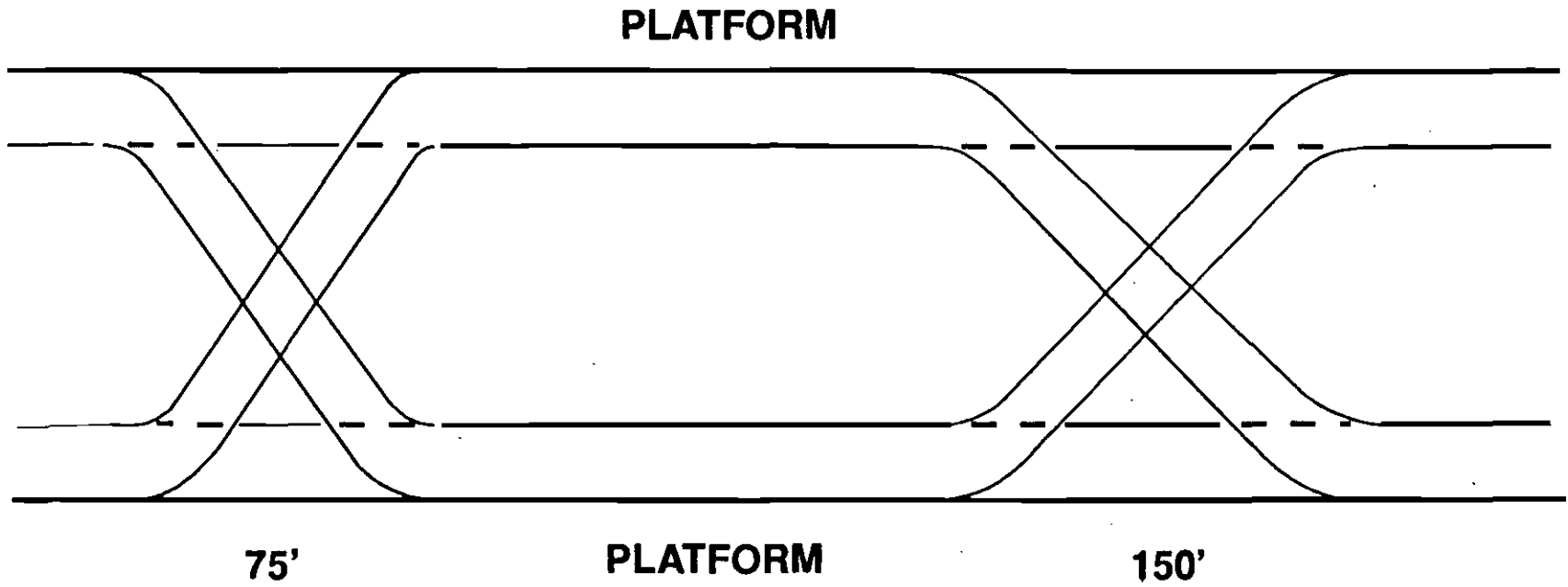
# METRO BLUE LINE WEEKDAY BOARDINGS



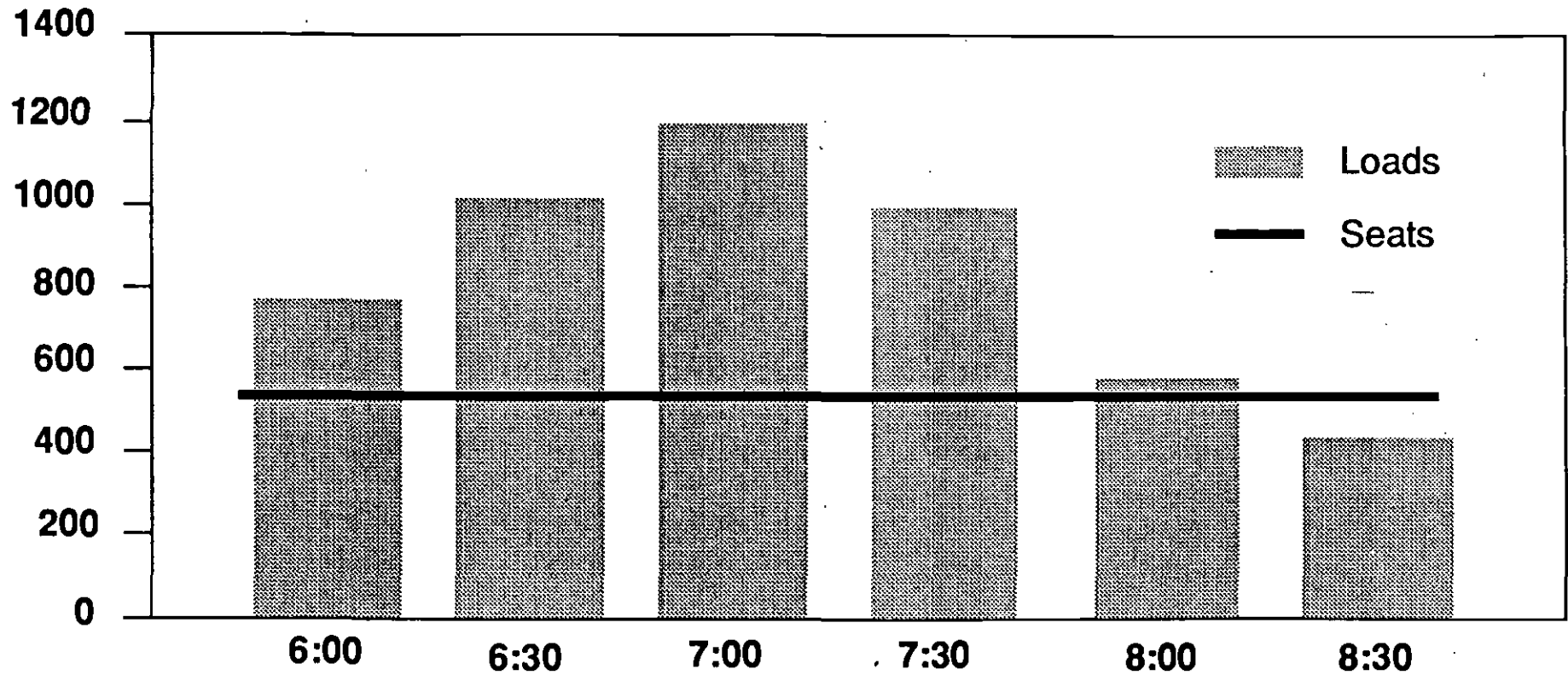
# WEEKDAY METRO BLUE LINE BOARDINGS SINCE METRO CENTER OPENING



# CROSSOVER TRACK CONFIGURATION AT METRO CENTER



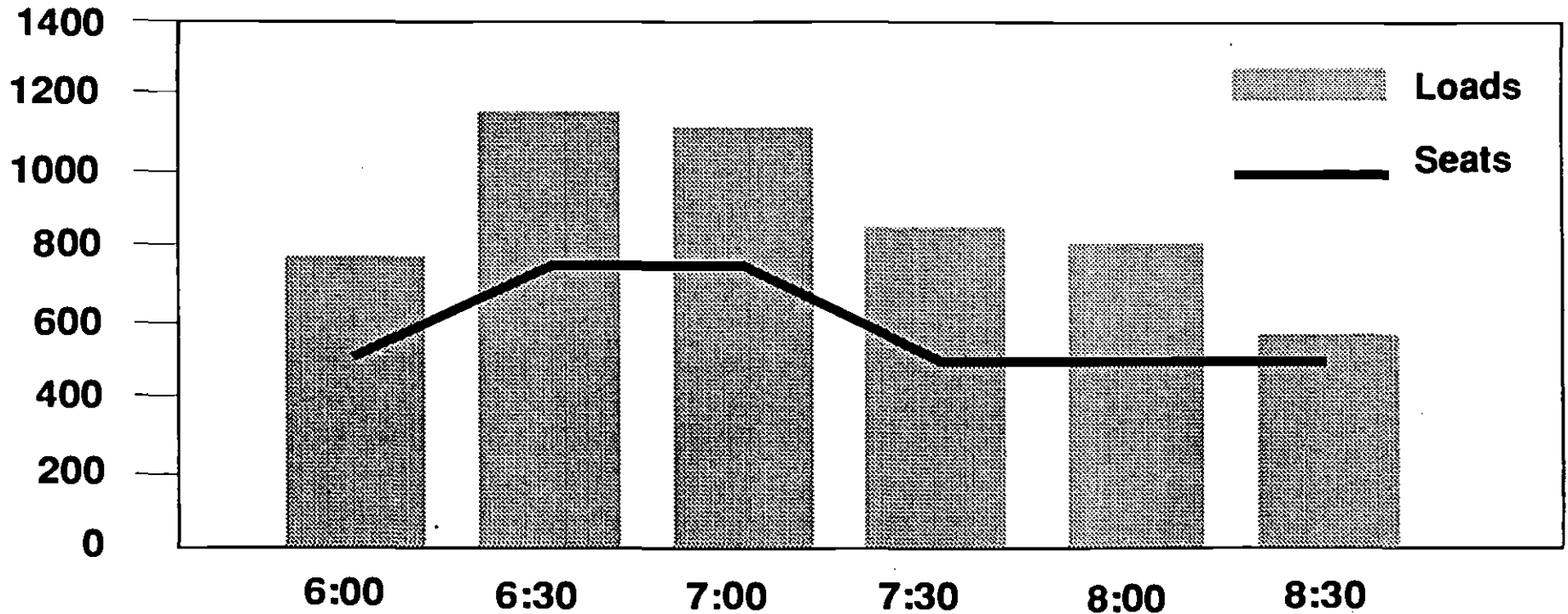
# TOTAL PASSENGER LOADS AND SEATS AM Peak - Northbound (Fixed Headway)



Source: 08/07/92 Ride Check (Based on times at Imperial Station)



# TOTAL PASSENGER LOADS AND SEATS AM Peak - Northbound (Accordion Headway)



Source: 02/11/92 Ride Check (Based on times at Imperial Station)  
Note: Rainy Day



## **V. SUMMARY OF LESSONS LEARNED**

- **Reliable ridership estimation procedures should be in place to monitor and report daily, monthly, and annual patronage (especially in a barrier-free environment)**
- **Extensive service monitoring activities should remain in place until ridership stabilizes and no new major service changes are implemented**
- **Once ridership patterns are well defined, demand-sensitive schedules can be implemented**

