



NEWS

April 27, 1999

CONTACT: ED SCANNELL/MARC LITTMAN
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2703/922-2700
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECT TO DELIVER SMOOTHER AND QUIETER RIDE ON THE METRO BLUE LINE, EXTEND LIFE OF THE RAIL

The MTA will begin a nine-month-long rail grinding and resurfacing project on the Metro Blue Line between the Willow and Washington stations on May 1, 1999. As a result of the maintenance, passengers can expect a smoother ride and residents living in neighborhoods along the Metro Blue Line alignment will notice a decrease in the sound level of operating trains.

The work will take place Saturday through Tuesday of each week between the hours of 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. and will be done from south to north in five segments during the following approximate time periods:

- May 1 - June 22, north of Willow Station to the Los Angeles River crossing
- June 26 - July 31, Los Angeles River crossing to south of Artesia Station
- August 1 - September 13, south of Artesia Station to south of Imperial Station
- September 14 - October 13, south of Imperial Station to south of Florence Station
- October 19 - December 7, south of Florence Station to south of Washington Station

In addition to the benefits experienced by passengers and nearby residents, reshaping the profile of the rail will minimize the amount of wear on the rail and train wheels, thereby resulting in better performance by Metro Blue Line trains.

More...

Page 2 of 2 Metro Blue Line Rail Grinding Project

The MTA purchased its 70-ft. rail grinding machine in 1995, and the Authority was one of the first large rail system operators in the country to implement precision rail profiling. Similar work has been done on the Metro Green Line and on the Metro Red Line subway.

A crew of four operates the rail grinding machine which is fitted with 16 cylindrical grinding stones, each of which is six inches in diameter. The machine is computer driven and is programmed with a series of profiling patterns to ensure maximum rail life and to customize the profile of the rail to match the curvature of the Metro Blue Line wheels.

The rail grinding work may cause trip times on the Metro Blue Line to be changed up to 10 minutes between the hours of 8 p.m. and 4 a.m., but the time *between* trips will remain the same. Rail maintenance advisories will be placed on all Metro Blue Line trains to notify passengers of the work and possible changes in trip times.

#