



## Seventh Street Metro Center Station Opens

Another milestone in transportation was reached February 14 with the opening of the underground Seventh Street/Metro Center Station of the Metro Blue Line light rail in downtown Los Angeles.

The opening of the 22nd and final Metro Blue Line station at Seventh and Flower streets marks the completion of the 22-mile-long rail passenger line between Long Beach and downtown Los Angeles which began partial operation last July. Initially, the rail line traveled between Anaheim Street in Long Beach to the station at Pico Avenue and Flower Streets in downtown Los Angeles, a few blocks short of its full length at both ends.

The Long Beach Loop segment extending to Second Street began operating in September, and now the opening of the Seventh Street Station completes the northern end of the rail line.

Of special significance with the opening of the Seventh Street/Metro Center station is its future role as the interface location between the Blue Line and the Metro Red Line subway system. The initial phase of the Metro Red Line will travel four miles from Union Station to MacArthur Park on Wilshire Boulevard when it begins operation in 1994. Future construction will extend the line to Hollywood, the Wilshire District, and the San Fernando Valley.

The underground station complex extends under a city block opening to the street level at Seventh and Flower streets and also Seventh and Figueroa streets.

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## Blue Line Patronage Soars to 25,000

The average daily ridership of the Metro Blue Line light rail system reached 25,000 during the month of February as first-year operations continue to exceed predictions.

Weekend ridership figures for February were reported at 19,000 for both Saturdays and Sundays.

Since the Blue Line began revenue operations in August of last year, the average weekday ridership of the system is 19,000.

Total ridership for the system during the month of February was 640,000, and the Blue Line has transported 3.9 million persons since it began operations.

*BANNER OCCASION — A huge banner at the Home Savings building at Seventh and Figueroa marks the entrance to the Seventh Street/Metro Center Station on the morning of February 15.*

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*ALL ABOARD — RTD Community Affairs Representative Anita Vigil describes some of the features of the Metro Blue Line during a recent tour of the system presented as part of the — “LA’s Newest Attraction” program.*

## 2,500 PEOPLE ENJOY TOUR OF L.A.’S NEWEST ATTRACTION

More than 2,500 people have already participated in the RTD’s free public tours program highlighted by the operation of the Metro Blue Line.

Billed as “L.A.’s Newest Attraction,” the RTD Public Tours Program offers seven tour packages of RTD operations and facilities.

**Metro Blue Line Tour & Ride** — The two-hour tour includes a complimentary ride on the Blue Line light rail system, an outline of safety features, using the ticket vending machines, transfer points for bus connections, and points of interest along the Blue Line route.

**Blue Line Division 11 Rail Facility** — A scheduled one-hour tour of the Blue Line maintenance yard features the transportation dispatch center, heavy repair, inspection, undercar cleaning, washrack, painting and wheel truing areas of the shops.

**Rail Central Control Facility** — The 40-minute tour of the control center adjacent to the Blue Line Imperial Station includes the computer tracking network of the rail line and its stations, as well as the security operations of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Transit Services Bureau.

**Central Maintenance Facility** — The nation’s most innovative bus repair facility features robots which

store and deliver parts, and also paint buses, which are just some of the highlights of the 40-minute tour of the complex located on a 28-acre site near downtown Los Angeles.

**Bus Operating Facility** — The RTD operates some 2,500 buses daily out of a dozen divisions located throughout Los Angeles County, with a two-hour tour providing a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the efforts that go into keeping those buses on the road.

**RTD Headquarters & Operations** — The 40-minute tour of the six-story RTD headquarters in downtown Los Angeles features visits to various departments, the bus and police dispatch center and telephone information operations.

**RTD Board Meeting** — Not really a tour, but an opportunity to watch government in action as the 11-member RTD Board of Directors makes decisions affecting current and future transportation issues in Los Angeles County in an open public meeting held every two weeks.

The RTD Public Tours Program is coordinated by the RTD Local Government and Community Affairs Department and can be reached by calling 213/972-4698.



# BOARDING BIKES ON WEEKENDS STARTS

Biking to the beach over the weekend? Take a shortcut on the Blue Line.

The RTD's Cycle Express program allows passengers to bring their bicycles aboard the Blue Line train with them on Saturday or Sunday. Bikes will not be allowed on the train during weekdays.

This pilot program will determine if the Blue Line trains can accommodate both passengers and bicycles. If successful, the program will be continued.

During the test period for Cycle Express, a special temporary Cycle Express pass must be obtained from any one of ten RTD Customer Centers. There is a \$3 application

fee for the permit and a full-face 1"x1¼" identification photo of the applicant is also required.

Restrictions to taking bikes aboard the train are:

- Use the rear of the train for boarding and exiting.
- Only two bikes are allowed per train car.
- Bikes must be stored by the operator cab at the rear of each train car.
- No bike riding is allowed on station platform.

For further information on the Cycle Express, call 213/972-7000.



**OPENING CEREMONIES** — Rep. Glenn Anderson, standing, addresses remarks to other dignitaries at the dedication of the station. Next to Anderson, from left, Supervisor Deane Dana, Mayor Tom Bradley, LACTC Chairman Ray Grabinski, Supervisor Ed Edelman, RCC Vice Chairman Ernesto Camacho, RTD Board Member Gordana Swanson and RTD General Manager Alan F. Pegg.

## Metro Center Station Opens

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On the evening of February 14, the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission held a reception for local dignitaries to mark the opening of the station and completion of the Blue Line with a ride on the first train out of the station.

The following day, RTD officials were on the station platform at 5:30 a.m. handing out free one-day passes and pins to commemorate the opening. In addition,

several thousand one-day passes were distributed to merchants in the immediate area to give to their patrons.

RTD employees were at the station throughout the day with information literature and a midday promotion was held at the nearby Broadway Plaza to publicize the station opening and direct people to merchants handing out the free passes.



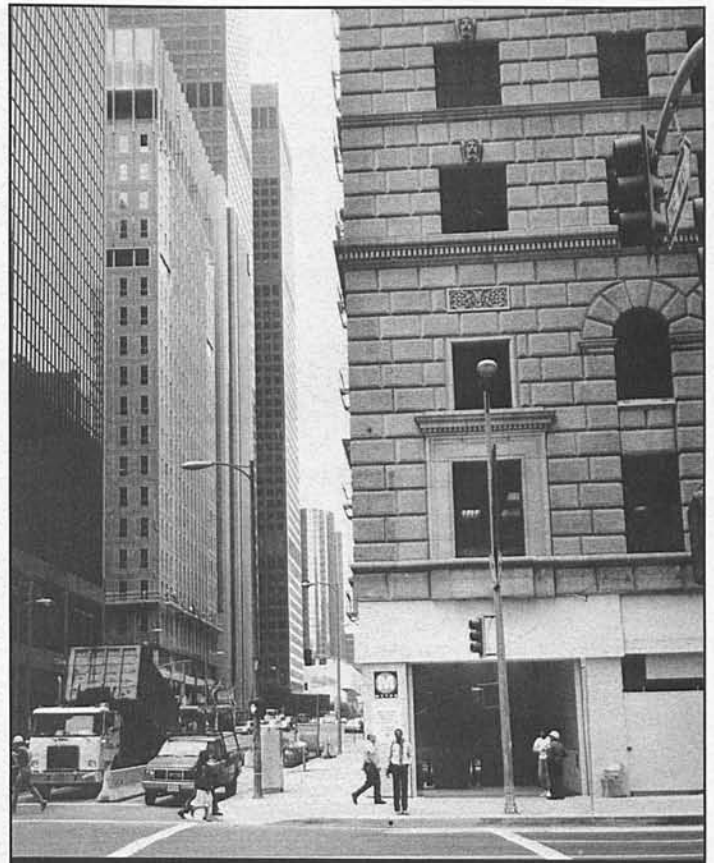
**WORKING THE PLATFORM** — RTD General Manager Alan F. Pegg, center, and Assistant General Manager Art Leahy, left, were at the station when the first train arrived at 5:30 a.m., handing out buttons marking the event.



**WITH MY COMPLIMENTS** — RTD Board President Nick Patsouras greets some of the first Blue Line passengers at the Seventh/Metro station, presenting them with a free pass.



**GETTING THE WORD OUT** — Shoppers at the Broadway Plaza in downtown Los Angeles pick up information about the opening of the new station during a special RTD promotion.



**WORK IN PROGRESS** — Construction continues at the Seventh and Flower entrance to the underground Blue Line station.



**DOWN UNDER** — Invited guests crowd the underground platform as the first train gets ready to pull out of the station.



Published by:  
 Southern California Rapid Transit District  
 Marketing & Communications Dept.  
 425 S. Main St.  
 Los Angeles, California 90013-1393