

Board OKs Bus/Rail Interface Plan, Rapid Bus Demo, Service Changes for North Hollywood Debut

By RICK JAGER

(March 23) The MTA Board has approved a series of bus service changes in connection with the opening of the North Hollywood segment of the Metro Red Line, scheduled for mid-2000.

In addition, the Board reaffirmed its commitment to the Metro Rapid Bus Demonstration Project to be implemented later this year, as well as other service change proposals designed to improve the operation of the Metro Bus system.

Extension opens June 24

On June 24, the MTA is scheduled to begin passenger revenue service on the Metro Red Line subway extension to North Hollywood in the San Fernando Valley. The Board approved free rides on the Metro Red Line on Saturday and Sunday, June 24 and 25, during the official opening.

To enhance rail service and reduce service duplication, the following bus routes will be impacted as part of the bus-rail interface plan: Lines 96, 152, 154, 166, 183, 420, 424, 425, 426, 427 and 522.

These service changes will take place on Sunday, June 25, or later. Line 427 will be canceled. The other lines will be rerouted or shortened to end at either the North Hollywood or Universal City Metro Red Line stations. Free bus to rail transfers will be issued for patrons on the shortened lines who use the Metro Red Line to complete their destinations into Hollywood and downtown Los Angeles.

Fast, high-quality bus service

A Metro Rapid Bus Demonstration Project will introduce new, fast, high-quality bus service in key transit corridors in the Eastside, Mid-City and San Fernando Valley. This service will upgrade and replace existing limited stop bus service in the Whittier/Wilshire and Ventura Boulevard corridors.

The Metro Rapid Bus Project will provide more reliable service using low-floor buses, signal priority at intersections, streamlined on-street boarding and alighting of passengers and improved bus stop spacing at planned Rapid Bus stations.

Metro Bus lines affected by the demonstration project include Lines 318, 320, 322 and 425. Two new Rapid Bus lines are proposed to be implemented along Whittier and Wilshire Boulevards and along Ventura Boulevard on June 24 with the Metro Red Line debut. Fares will be free with the first week of service on these two new bus lines only.

New experimental route

Other service changes proposed to improve the operation of the bus system include the permanent implementation of a new experimental route on Line 434 (Los Angeles-Santa Monica Express).

In addition, reverse commute service during the morning and afternoon peak periods will be offered on Line 418 (LACBD-Roscoe Boulevard Express). A minor reroute on Line 154 to serve the Northridge Metrolink Station also is planned.

Line 429 will be canceled due to a significant ridership decline since the Metro Red Line extension to Hollywood opened last year.

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