

Construction To Extend Metro Blue Line Platforms To Get Underway; Completed Project Will Increase Line's Capacity

By ED SCANNELL

(May 18) The Metro Blue Line is about to get a face lift with a project which will increase the line's capacity. Construction will begin the week of May 22, 2000, to lengthen 19 Metro Blue Line station platforms to accommodate three-car trains.

The Metro Blue Line currently can operate only two-car trains on the 22-mile route between downtown Los Angeles and Long Beach. One of the busiest light rail lines in the nation, the Metro Blue Line carries nearly 60,000 boarding passengers every weekday. As a result, many of the peak service trains operate at capacity which has necessitated the lengthening of station platforms to accommodate an additional car.

The \$9.7 million project will be completed in phases, beginning with the Metro Blue Line Grand Station. Three Metro Blue Line stations, 7th St./Metro Center, Slauson and Firestone, already have sufficient length to accommodate three-car trains and, accordingly, do not require modification.

Work will take place between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. which, during the remainder of the service day between 9 p.m. and 12:30 a.m., will necessitate operating trains on a single track around the platforms under construction at the time. The MTA anticipates only minor service delays due to the construction.

The project is expected to be completed by late summer 2001 at which time MTA will be able to operate three-car trains.

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