

Crews Extending Metro Blue Line Platforms at 19 Stations

(June 19) Construction work is under way to extend passenger platforms at the Metro Blue Line's Grand Avenue station and Washington station – the first of 19 that will be lengthened over the next 14 months to accommodate longer trains.

The current 190-foot platforms are only long enough for two-car trains. Lengthening the stations to 280 feet, however, will permit the operation of three-car trains.

Boost passenger capacity

The increase in the number of daily boardings on the Long Beach-to-Los Angeles line already has required the MTA to shorten the interval between trains. As a next step, the agency plans to boost passenger capacity by adding more cars.

In April, the Metro Blue Line recorded more than 61,000 daily boardings, an increase of almost 10,000 over April, 1999. Extending the Metro Red Line into the Valley also could further encourage Metro Blue Line ridership as more rail destination open up.

Adding a third car to Metro Blue Line trains requires - in addition to longer platforms - the installation of new traffic control equipment at rail crossings in the downtown area, according to Tom Lee, Metro Construction project manager.

Intersection adjustments

The equipment, which will be provided by LADOT later this year, will be installed by the MTA's contractor and should be operational in early 2001. Similar intersection adjustments also will have to be made in Long Beach as the project moves toward its conclusion.

Lee expects the work on the Grand Avenue station to be completed July 15, with work on the Washington station finishing up by July 30. The next in line for lengthening is the San Pedro station.

The entire platform extension project is scheduled for completion in mid-August, 2001.

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