

## **Metro Blue Line Adds Trains to Transport Fans to Lakers Parade**

- **Vandals Cause Problems Following Parade**

(June 21) With thousands of fans headed into downtown Los Angeles for the Lakers' NBA championship parade, Wednesday morning, MTA Rail Operations scheduled six extra Metro Blue Line trains with a total capacity of approximately 3,000 riders.

The trains were added beginning at 8:30 a.m. to help alleviate crush loads. They were expected to continue in operation until around 2 p.m. The parade was scheduled to begin at 11 a.m.

The trains were scheduled "to assist in the effective movement of fans," said Ralph de la Cruz, deputy executive officer, Rail Operations. "We'll do whatever is necessary to handle this unscheduled, but happy event."

### **Southbound run experienced delays**

Trains departing downtown following the parade experienced some difficulties when passengers became impatient with service delays. Passengers apparently disabled the doors of one car and prevented the train from leaving the Grand Avenue station, causing a backup on the line. There was no damage to the trains and no passengers or operators reported injuries.

De la Cruz, who spent several hours observing rail operations Wednesday, estimated that all three rail systems transported more than twice as many passengers as the 154,000 carried on a normal weekday. Load figures could reach 308,000 or more for the day, he said.

Meanwhile, a Division 3 bus and a Division 18 bus were reported vandalized on Figueroa south of Staples Center following the parade. Vandals swarmed the Division 3 bus, pulled off body panels and tore out computer wires, according to Bus Operations Control. A Transit Operations supervisor got the bus running again so it could transport passengers out of the area.

Earlier, the MTA provided four buses to transport LAPD officers to the area of the parade.

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