

Metro Bus Ridership Hits Six-Year Peak; Metro Rail Ridership at All-Time High

By RICK JAGER

(August 23) With the completion of the Metro Red Line to North Hollywood and the implementation of two new Metro Rapid bus lines, ridership on Metro system totaled more than 1.4 million boarding passengers on an average weekday in July.



Metro Bus ridership reached its highest point in more than six years, averaging 1,253,931 boarding patrons during the month of July, compared to 1,041,045 carried in July, 1999.

The recent bus ridership numbers represent the highest ridership on the Metro Bus system since May, 1994.

Most heavily patronized line

The increase is due partly to the start-up of two new Metro Rapid bus lines serving the Wilshire/Whittier and Ventura Boulevard corridors. Ridership on the Wilshire/Whittier Metro Rapid line exceeds 50,000 average weekday boardings and is now the most heavily patronized MTA bus line in the region.

Equally impressive is the fact that approximately 10,000 boarding passengers are now using the new Metro Rapid Bus Line serving Ventura Boulevard from the Metro Red Line Universal City station to Warner Center.

Overall, Metro Rail ridership also showed strong gains during the month of July, totaling 208,425 average weekday boardings on the entire 59.4-mile system. The Metro Blue Line carried an average of 62,550 patrons, the Metro Green Line recorded 26,725 and the Metro Red Line averaged 119,150 weekday boardings.

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