

Subway Sees Greatest 1-Month Ridership Gain

- **Gas Prices Cited**

By GARY WOSK

(June 26, 2001) The Metro Red Line has experienced its greatest one-month gain in numerical ridership since the system debuted in 1993. Only during the opening of new segments has ridership been higher.

In May 2001, approximately 10,000 more passengers boarded the subway each weekday – 134,675 – as compared to April 2001 when weekday boardings averaged 125,050.

In May 2000, one-month before the 17.4 mile Metro Red Line opened in the San Fernando Valley, ridership reached 65,150 weekday boardings. Following the opening of the 6.3-mile extension, ridership soared to 119,150 weekday boardings.

"Ridership has been building for the last two to three months," said Ashok Kumar, director, Technical Services and Transportation Analysis. "Although more analysis is required, including the origination of most of this new ridership, it appears the main reason for the increase is the continued high cost of gasoline.

Subway more economical

"I would also speculate that the people in the Valley account for the highest share of the ridership increase since they find it much more economical to take the subway on long trips to downtown jobs."

Overall, ridership on the 59.4-mile Metro Rail system jumped from 216,400 weekday boardings in April 2001 to 228,750 weekday boardings in May 2001 – a 5.7 percent increase.

Ridership on the Metro Blue Line rose from 62,850 weekday daily boarding passengers in April 2001 to 63,725 in May 2001. On the Metro Green Line, daily weekday boardings in April 2001 grew from 28,500 to 30,350 in May 2001.

June ridership numbers are not expected to be released until mid-July.

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