

Got Change?



- **MTA Tests Change Machines at 2 Metro Rail Stations**



Change machine prototype in service.

By GARY WOSK

(Sept. 6, 2001) These times, they are a-changin'! The first change machines on the Metro Rail System are being tested at the Universal City and North Hollywood stations.

Installed in early June and August on the mezzanine level next to the ticket vending machines (TVM), the change machines accept \$1, \$5 and \$10 bills, old or new, in exchange for dollar coins which then can be fed into the TVMs. If test results are favorable, the change machines also could be calibrated to handle \$20 bills.

"So far, they're holding up really well," said James Cudlip, deputy director of Revenue. "We haven't received too many calls about the machines not accepting bills."

Installing the machines at all 52 Metro Rail stations would cost approximately \$200,000 and would require MTA Board approval. A decision is expected later this year on whether to expand the service.

"Before a decision can be made we need to determine the volume of usage, the rejection rate and how much maintenance will be required," said Cudlip. "The main beneficiaries of these machines will be the people who forever find themselves stuck with large bills and their train is about to pull out."

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