

Metro Ridership Up on All Fronts; Subway Boardings Soar

Click image below for statistics on average Metro System weekday boardings



(March. 22, 2002) Metro System ridership is up on all fronts, Deputy CEO John Catoe reported to the Board's Operations Committee this week, with "significant" increases in Metro Rail boardings.

The most startling ridership spike occurred on the Metro Red Line where – in the two-year period between February 2000 and February 2002 – fiscal year-to-date boardings increased by 122 percent.

The opening of the North Hollywood Extension accounted for much of the increase and ridership skyrocketed despite a 32-day strike in September and October of 2000.

"Basically, we've recovered from the strike with increased ridership," Catoe told the committee.

The addition of new subway service also affected patronage on the light-rail lines – most prominently the Metro Green Line. Ridership on that east-west line rose 32 percent over the two-year period, while boardings on the Metro Blue Line grew by 11 percent.

Metro Bus ridership over the two-year period rose 5.6 percent, although in the February 2001 to February 2002 period, boardings increased by 16.4 percent. The strike in 2000 affected bus ridership most heavily as patronage declined by 9 percent between February 2000 and February 2001.

Between July 2001 and the end of February 2002, the Metro Bus system carried 250,252,958 passengers; the Metro Red Line carried 26,884,014 passengers; the Metro Blue Line carried 13,195,264 passengers and the Metro Green Line carried 6,121,999 passengers.

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