

Record-Breaking Ridership Trend Continues on Metro Blue Line

By ED SCANNELL

The Metro Blue Line's record-breaking run continued in July 2002 as average weekday boardings soared to 73,115.

July was the third consecutive month in which average weekday boardings on the 22-mile line surpassed the 70,000 mark.

Average weekday boardings for July on the 20-mile Metro Green Line reached 30,211. Average weekday boardings on the 17.4-mile Metro Red Line hit 136,902.

The 59.4-mile Metro Rail system will expand by another 13.7 miles in mid-2003 with the opening of the Metro Gold Line to Pasadena. A six-mile extension of the Metro Gold Line to East Los Angeles is on track to open in 2008.

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Quotables...

MTA Board Chairman Hal Bernson --

"Since we opened it in July 1990, the Metro Blue Line has been an extremely attractive travel alternative for people who commute between downtown Los Angeles and Long Beach. Less than a year ago we responded to the line's growing popularity and added a third car to half of our peak hour trains and, no surprise, the additional capacity has lured more riders."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Don

Knabe -- "The Metro Blue Line has successfully linked Long Beach and Los Angeles and demonstrates the growing need for public transportation. This increase proves the strength of our growing mass transit network in Los Angeles County."