

Media aboard Metro Gold Line train arrive in South Pasadena.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER YEH

Metro Gold Line Carries First Passengers on Test Run

By DANIELLE GROSSMAN

(Nov. 26, 2002) Spectators waved enthusiastically, Nov. 15, as a Metro Gold Line train carried the first passengers on a test run through Pasadena.

"The ride was outstanding," said Deputy CEO John Catoe. "Not only the ride, but the car. The cleanliness sets a standard for our fleet and the way we're going to operate this service."

"I can assure the people that this will be a Class A service," he said. "It will be a flagship for the rest of the services we offer."

Following a news conference, the test train carried press, MTA, Metro Construction Authority and city officials on a 1.5-mile run from Mission Street station in South Pasadena to the Fillmore station and back

The Metro Gold Line, a 13.7-mile light-rail system, will affect the community of Pasadena in a lot of positive ways, says MTA Board Member Pam O'Connor. Not only will it give people an opportunity to travel between Los Angeles and Pasadena, it also will allow people to travel within Pasadena.

Freedom from cars

"It will increase mobility and give people freedom in a different way, freedom from their cars," said O'Connor.

The Metro Gold Line, expected to be operating in mid-2003, started its testing Nov. 13, with only minor changes needed before it could carry its small group of passengers.

"We had some small glitches," said Jesse Diaz, director of rail operations, "but that's part of testing. That's why it's not open to the public yet."

The testing will continue until the line's opening, giving it more runs through the community.

"We'll get the community more involved, give them a special presentation of what's happening, so they see exactly what's going on," says Diaz.

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