

## Metro Gold Line Poised to Open to the Public on Saturday, July 26

By RICK JAGER



PHOTO COURTESY OF MTA DESIGN STUDIO

- **Adds 13.7-Miles to Metro Rail System**

(June 18, 2003) Pending final approval from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), MTA is poised to open the Metro Gold Line on Saturday, July 26.

The new light-rail line spans 13.7 miles linking Union Station in downtown Los Angeles and Sierra Madre Villa in East Pasadena. The opening of the Metro Gold Line will expand Metro Rail to a total of 73.1 miles.

"Mobility throughout the region is about to get kicked up a notch with the opening of the Metro Gold Line," said Board Chairman Hal Bernson.

In the first year of operation, the Metro Gold Line is expected to carry between 26,000 and 32,000 average weekday boarding passengers. Cost of the system including rail cars and various improvements to the line is estimated at \$859 million.

"The Metro Gold Line has been a long-awaited project and, with its opening, will link communities to the rest of the Metro Rail system by providing a real transportation alternative," said Supervisor Gloria Molina. "Early next year, we hope to break ground extending the Gold Line from Union Station to East Los Angeles."

### **'A vital link'**

"The Gold Line is a vital link in the County's multi-modal transportation system – efficiently serving the needs of commuters in Los Angeles, Chinatown, Lincoln Heights, Highland Park, South Pasadena and Pasadena," said Supervisor Michael Antonovich.

The Metro Gold Line has 13 stations and will operate service from 3:35 a.m. to 2 a.m. seven days a week. Trains will operate at 10-minute headways during weekday peak morning and afternoon periods. Trains will operate every 12 minutes during mid-day and every 20 minutes during late-night hours.

"Rain or shine, commuters using the Metro Gold Line can expect to get from East Pasadena to downtown Los Angeles and vice versa in approximately 36 minutes without the traffic hassles of the Pasadena and 210 Freeways," said CEO Roger Snoble.

The Metro Gold Line will use 26 state-of-the-art rail cars. Each 76-

passenger rail car costs \$3.75 million. The scheduled capacity for each car during rush periods is a total of 144 passengers, including standees.

When Metro Gold Line service starts, MTA expects to deploy 39 full-time train operators and two part-time operators. MTA plans to operate two-car trains.

### **Pre-revenue testing**

The rail line was turned over to MTA in mid-April for testing. MTA plans to conduct extensive pre-revenue testing up to the public opening on July 26.

Many Metro Bus improvements have been made in the San Gabriel Valley to better serve the Metro Gold Line by providing direct bus service to various stations along the alignment.

Parking will be available around some Metro Gold Line stations, including a 1,000-space parking structure adjacent to the Sierra Madre Villa station in East Pasadena. There will be approximately 1,100 paid parking spaces at Union Station.

Limited parking spaces will be provided at Lincoln Heights/Cypress Park station (100), Heritage Square/Arroyo station (145), Fillmore station (160), and the Del Mar Station (600). In addition, MTA is working to secure some parking adjacent to the Lake Avenue station.

[Back to MTA Report](#)