

New Gold Line TVMs Have More Features; Can Be Upgraded for Smart Cards

By DAVE SOTERO

(July 17, 2003) Metro rail patrons will find a new type of ticket vending machine at Metro Gold Line Stations when the rail line opens July 26.

The 50 TVM machines have several new features that make them easier to use than most ATM machines. Besides English and Spanish, the TVMs also will have instructions in Chinese.

At least two will be located at each Metro Gold Line station, with six in place at the Chinatown station.

The baseline functions of the new TVMs are the same as MTA's other ticket vending machines. The new machines, however, have features that make buying tickets quicker and easier.



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Easy as 1-2-3

Ordering rail tickets is as easy as 1-2-3 using the simple on-screen instructions. Customer interface screens are more user-friendly. For the hearing impaired, the new machines come equipped with an audio jack. Patrons who need assistance can view a full-color help screen.

The new TVMs can accept bills up to \$20. Ticket vending machines on the Metro Blue, Green and Red Lines can only accept \$1 and \$5 bills. Multiple tickets can be purchased in a single transaction.

MTA is introducing the upgraded line of TVMs to acquaint the public with equipment that is capable, in the future, of accommodating smart card technology.

Systemwide upgrades, planned for 2004, will equip the TVMs to dispense and read smart cards. The machines will automatically credit and deduct ticket purchases from the card's balance, thus eliminating the need for cash.

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