

## Officials Will Dedicate Metro Gold Line in Friday Ceremonies

(July 24, 2003) An array of local, state and federal officials will assemble at Union Station, Friday morning, to officially dedicate the Metro Gold Line – the latest addition to a growing Southern California rail network.



PHOTO BY GAYLE ANDERSON

Gold Line train awaits dedication ceremony at historic Union Station.

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MTA Board Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky, CEO Roger Snoble and other MTA officials and staff will host an expected 500 VIP guests and a large contingent of regional and national media for opening ceremonies in the historic station's ticket room.

When the formal event ends, the VIPs will gather on the Track Two platform to welcome the inaugural Metro Gold Line train, driven by Metro Rail Operator Ruben Ramirez. The train is expected to break

through a large "Discover Gold" banner sometime after about 11:15 a.m.

(Employees should be able to watch the break-through from the upper floors of MTA Headquarters overlooking Union Station.)

### VIP train ride

Following the break-through, the VIPs will board the inaugural train and several backup trains for the short trip to Memorial Park station in Pasadena, where they will be greeted by city officials.

The 13.7-mile light-rail line, which opens to the public this weekend, has 13 stations located along a line that links downtown Los Angeles and Sierra Madre Villa in East Pasadena via Chinatown, Highland Park, South Pasadena and Pasadena.

Free rides will be offered on the Metro Gold Line, Saturday and Sunday, and there will be free family fun at a number of stations along the alignment. Community events are scheduled at Union Station, Chinatown, Heritage Square/Arroyo, Highland Park, Mission Street, Memorial Park and Sierra Madre Villa.

Some 350 employee volunteers from throughout MTA will help staff the community events to provide crowd control, directions and information. Sheriff's deputies and security assistants, volunteers and Explorers from the Transit Services Bureau also will be on hand to provide security.

The opening of the Metro Gold Line will expand Metro Rail to 73.1 miles. The line will be the fourth rail service – after the Metro Blue, Red and Green Lines – to be operated by MTA.

### 26,000 to 32,000 boardings

In the first year of operation, the Metro Gold Line is expected to

carry an average 26,000 to 32,000 boarding passengers each weekday. Cost of the system, including rail cars and various improvements to the line, is estimated at \$859 million.

The Metro Gold Line will operate every 10 minutes on weekdays during peak morning and afternoon rush hours. Trains will operate every 12 minutes during mid-day and every 20 minutes during late-night hours.

On weekends, early morning and late-night trains will operate every 20 minutes. Mid-day service will operate every 12 minutes until approximately 7 p.m. Hours of operation will be from 4 a.m. to 2 a.m. seven days a week.

The Metro Gold Line was constructed by the Los Angeles to Pasadena Metro Construction Authority. Testing of the system was turned over to the MTA in mid-April. MTA has over the last three months conducted extensive pre-revenue train and systems testing.

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