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## Metro Rapid Rolls, June 28, on Vernon-La Cienega, Soto Street

By ED SCANNELL

(June 17, 2004) The Metro Bus system's fastest on-street service comes to Vernon Avenue/La Cienega Boulevard and Soto Street on June 28.

The two new lines, 705 for Vernon-La Cienega and 751 for Soto, were announced at a news conference Thursday afternoon. Metro Rapid Line 751 will be the San Gabriel Valley service sector's first Metro Rapid line.

"Metro Rapid continues to attract new riders to the Metro System because it's safe and reliable and very fast service," said CEO Roger Snoble. "As the Metro Rapid System grows, more people in Los Angeles will be able to shorten their travel times."

Vernon-La Cienega Metro Rapid Line 705 will operate Monday through Friday, only, from approximately 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. The 13.8-mile line will run from Santa Monica and San Vicente Boulevards in West Hollywood, terminating at Vernon and Santa Fe Avenues in the City of Vernon.

### 13-mile line

Soto Metro Rapid Line 751 will operate Monday through Saturday from approximately 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday. The 13-mile line will run from Avenue 26 and Figueroa Avenue in Cypress Park to the Metro Green Line Long Beach/I-105 Station.

"We anticipate a brisk ridership level on Metro Rapid Lines 751 and 705 since they will operate across some of the most heavily populated and transit dependent areas in Los Angeles County," said Supervisor Gloria Molina.

Metro Rapid has generated significant gains in ridership on the seven existing corridors, attracting discretionary riders as well as people who depend on public transit.

"This is a big step forward for the Eastside's large transit-dependent population," said Los Angeles City Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa. "They are among the system's most dedicated bus riders by both necessity and choice, and they deserve the kind of first-class service Metro Rapid provides."

### Metro Rapid debuted in 2000

The Metro Rapid Bus Program debuted on Wilshire-Whittier and Ventura Boulevards in June 2000. Five other lines were added on Vermont



PHOTO BY ROXANNE TAN

Avenue and South Broadway (December 2002), Florence Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard (June 2003) and Crenshaw Boulevard (February 2004). Metro Rapid buses will operate on a total of 28 lines when expansion of the program is completed in 2008.

Metro Rapid was selected as a semifinalist in Harvard University's 2002 Innovations In American Government Awards as an outstanding example of creative problem solving in the public sector.

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