


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net \(web\)](#)

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[Safety](#)
[Pressroom \(web\)](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance \(web\)](#)
[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/Library](#)
[Metro Cafe \(pdf\)](#)
[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Retirement Round-up](#)

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[Policies](#)
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[Intranet Policy](#)

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## Metro Rapid Signal Priority to Reach Outside L.A. City Limits

- Project to target four Metro Rapid lines
- [Other Board actions in April](#)

By ED SCANNELL

(May 4, 2005) The Board has approved a three-year, \$6.7 million project to expand the Metro Rapid signal priority system outside the Los Angeles city limits.

The contract, which includes an \$800,000 option, was awarded to PB Farradyne and targets four corridors: Florence Avenue; Soto Street and Hawthorne Boulevard, which already benefit from signal priority where the lines operate in the City of Los Angeles; and the future Long Beach Metro Rapid line.

The contract award follows a successful demonstration, beginning in February 2004, of signal priority technology on Crenshaw Metro Rapid Line 710. It was the first successful demonstration of signal priority operations across multiple jurisdictions.

Metro Rapid's headway-based operation, the wider spacing of station stops and bus signal priority technology, which reduces red-signal delay, collectively have reduced bus travel times in Metro Rapid corridors up to 29 percent.

"Metro Rapid has transformed bus commuting in Los Angeles, in large measure because of its bus signal priority system," said Board Chairman Frank Roberts. "Implementing this technology beyond the city limits will extend the same timesaving benefits to our Metro Rapid customers as they travel through other jurisdictions."

## Four target Metro Rapid lines

Florence Metro Rapid Line 711 operates through six jurisdictions in addition to the City of Los Angeles, including Inglewood, LA County, Huntington Park, Cudahy, Bell and Bell Gardens.

Soto Metro Rapid Line 751 operates through five jurisdictions in addition to the City of Los Angeles, including Vernon, Huntington Park, LA County, South Gate and Lynwood.

Hawthorne Metro Rapid Line 740 operates through five jurisdictions in addition to the City of Los Angeles, including Inglewood, LA County, Hawthorne, Lawndale and Redondo Beach.

When opened, Long Beach Metro Rapid Line 760 will operate through seven jurisdictions in addition to the City of Los Angeles, including Vernon, Huntington Park, LA County, South Gate, Lynwood, Compton and North Long Beach.

The Metro Rapid bus program will reach the halfway mark of a planned expansion to 28 lines with the debut of three new lines on Monday, June 27, 2005.

The start of service on Fairfax Metro Rapid Line 717, Beverly Metro Rapid Line 714 and Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus Rapid 3 line on Lincoln Boulevard will bring the total number of Metro Rapid bus lines to 14 and will expand Metro Rapid service to 205 route miles.

### Other Board actions in April

The Board also took action on the following items during the April meeting:

- **Item 7, New Metro Rapid Service.** The Board approved a motion to provide Metro Rapid service on Fairfax Avenue between Hollywood & Vine and the West LA Transit Center beginning in June 2005.  
The motion includes rescheduling the opening of Metro Rapid service on North Sepulveda from June 2005 to June 2006, with a goal of implementing it as early as December 2005, if funds are available.
- **Item 31, Bike Lockers and Racks.** Acting under its authority, the Construction Committee authorized the CEO to award a \$234,628 contract Johnson Barnes & Finch, Inc., of Lakeside, Calif., for 104 bicycle lockers and 78 bicycle racks for use on the Metro Orange Line.
- **Items 43 and 44, Contract Bus Service.** The Board authorized the CEO to award a \$43.2 million contract to Transportation Concepts to operate four routes – Lines 96, 167, 218 and 603 – in the North Region.
- The Board also approved a \$33.2 million contract with Southland Transit to operate six routes – Lines 177, 254, 256, 266, 270 and 605 – in the East Region.
- **Item 45, First Transit Contract.** The Board carried over for possible action in May a vote authorizing the CEO to award a \$76.9 million contract to First Transit, Inc., to operate 10 routes – Lines 125, 128, 130, 205, 214, 225, 232, 607, 608 and 625 – in the South Region.