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Members of the safety team at the new bus stop in front of Locke H.S. on 111th Street. Front row, from left, Madeline Van Leuvan, Dr. James Person, Veronica Navar, Glenda Gonzales and Cassandra Dixon. Back row, from left, Scott Greene and Tom Kelso.

## Metro Bus Service Improving for Locke High Students

By RICH MORALLO



(May 20, 2005) Locke High School students headed home after classes now will have an easier and faster time boarding Metro in Southeast Los Angeles.

"Local passengers, faculty and students will be able to catch Line 52 right in front of the school administrative building on 111th Street," South Bay General Manager Dana M. Coffey announced in front of 150 city officials, parents, teachers and residents at a recent community meeting.



Los Angeles Councilwoman Janice Hahn, left, and General Manager Dana M. Coffey at the recent safety collaborative meeting at Locke High School.

The audience broke out in applause because they knew that in the past the students had to cross busy Avalon Boulevard to catch the northbound line.

Additionally, Metro will send a Line 48 bus directly to the stop at San Pedro and 110th Streets at the end of classes, at 2:54 p.m. on school days.

## 'Guaranteed a seat'

"Passengers who want to head north on San Pedro Street will be guaranteed a seat," explained

Service Development Manager Madeline Van Leuvan. Previously, some students would walk south on San Pedro to an earlier stop to make sure they had a seat on the bus.

The new Line 48 service change includes allowing three minutes for passengers to board the bus before departing at 2:57 p.m. for Manchester Avenue. Line 52 will also arrive at the administrative building at 2:54 p.m., depart after three minutes, return to Avalon Boulevard and proceed to Manchester Avenue.

Van Leuvan, who coordinated the Line 52 and Line 48 changes with Metro Gateway Cities and Metro Westside Central, was enthusiastic about contributing to a safe school environment. "We want to support the neighborhood families, students, and teachers."

**'Keep students safer'**

"Metro has been cooperative every step of the way in looking for ways to keep students safer on the streets," said LAPD Capt. Sergio Diaz during the meeting at the high school.

That assembly included briefings from the 20-month-old community-based safety collaborative formed to achieve, among other goals, safety for student getting to and from school.

South Bay employees participate in similar safety collaboratives at other high schools, including Westchester, Washington Preparatory, and John C. Fremont.

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