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A 450 Express bus, with its new color scheme, is ready to begin runs from the Artesia Transit Center into downtown Los Angeles



South Bay to Downtown: New 450 Express Bus Service Coming

- Artesia Transit Center to Downtown in less than 30 minutes

By Dave Sotero

(June 14, 2005) Beginning Monday, June 27, Metro will pilot a new express bus line that will speed rush hour commuters between the South Bay and Downtown Los Angeles in less than 30 minutes, about half the time of driving alone.

Metro Express Line 450X will travel between the Artesia Transit Center and LA's Financial District, with Downtown stops at 7th and Metro, 5th and Flower and several other points.

Riders will be able to try out the new service for free Monday, June 27, through Wednesday, June 29.

An Open House is scheduled at the Artesia Transit Center on Wednesday, June 29, to distribute information about South Bay transportation services and to offer free rides on the 450 Express. Information tables will be set up on the bus loading platform from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The newly outfitted blue 450 Express buses will make the brisk 25-30 minute trip by using HOV lanes and will make only one mid-point stop – at Harbor Freeway and I-105.

Buses every half-hour

Two 450 Express buses will complete four round trips during the morning and afternoon rush hours. Buses will run every half hour

between 6:25 a.m. and 7:55 a.m., and from 4:05 p.m. to 5:25 p.m.

"The South Bay community will be well served by this new and improved express service, which can save them valuable time and reduce gasoline and parking costs," said South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey. "The Artesia Transit Center is fully equipped to handle commuters' needs, with 900 free park and ride spaces and connections with 10 Metro and two municipal transit lines serving much of the South Bay."

The fare for all 450X Express Bus boarding points will be \$2.25 – the \$1.25 regular fare, plus \$1 for two freeway zones. The fare for seniors/disabled/Medicare recipients will be 95 cents.

The express buses will run on a trial basis for the next six months. The South Bay sector will hold public hearings in early August to determine whether the line will become a permanent express route.

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