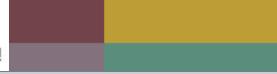
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## Metro Blue Line Ridership Reaches Record Level

Average weekday boardings reach 76,030 in May

### By DAVE SOTERO

Ridership on the Metro Blue Line reached a record this May, with more than 76,000 average weekday boardings, the highest month of ridership since the 22-mile rail line between Los Angeles and Long Beach opened in 1990.

Metro Blue Line ridership has averaged between 65,000 and 70,000 average weekday boardings for most of 2004 and early 2005. In March, however, ridership jumped to 75,122. April ridership reached 73,883.

So far this fiscal year, Metro Blue Line ridership has reached 20.9 million boarding passengers, which nears the all-time record of 22.1 million boarding set in June 2003.

The increase may be partially a result of higher gasoline prices in the Los Angeles Basin, which have risen to record levels this year.

# Boardings on other lines

Average weekday boardings on the Metro Red Line reached 117,703 in May, up from 115,505 in April and even above the previous high of 117.507 recorded in March.

Metro Green Line ridership hit 32,815 in May, up from 31,431 in April and just under the FY 2005 high of 33,227 average weekday boardings set in March.

On the Metro Gold Line, average weekday boardings of 14,991 were down slightly from the FY 2005 high of 15,357 reached in April.

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