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Metro Liners pass on the 26-foot-wide transitway of the Metro Orange Line near Laurel Canyon Station during test ride for officials and media August 2.



Photo by Juan Ocampo

## Metro May Begin Testing Buses on Metro Orange Line, Aug. 21

- Public advised to stay off transitway and exercise caution at intersections

By DAVE SOTERO

(Aug. 16, 2005) Metro is set to begin testing buses on the Metro Orange Line as early as Sunday, Aug. 21, and the agency is advising San Fernando Valley pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists to keep off the transitway and exercise caution at street intersections.

Metro Liner buses will begin test runs on the eastern portion of the Metro Orange Line between Lankershim Boulevard and Van Nuys Boulevard. Buses will run intermittently from 4 a.m. to 1 a.m. the next day, up to seven days a week.

In mid-September, testing on this portion of the transitway is expected to expand to include the entire 14-mile right-of-way between North Hollywood and Warner Center, and will continue until the scheduled opening of the line this fall.

To ensure public safety during testing and beyond, Metro is asking residents not to trespass on the transitway. The agency is emphasizing the importance of obeying traffic signals and signage, especially since pedestrians will be sharing intersections with Metro Liners for the first time.

## Major street improvements

Metro has made major street and intersection improvements to ensure that motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians can travel harmoniously with Metro Liner vehicles through 36 major Valley intersections.

The agency will be working closely with law enforcement agencies to increase enforcement along the Metro Orange Line during testing.

Sheriff's deputies will increasingly patrol the transitway, and may ticket trespassers who then will be subject to a fine. The LAPD will enforce traffic regulations on critical sections of city streets.

Meanwhile, the Community Relations Department is sending notices to residents along the alignment as well as to schools in the area. Safety Outreach Program personnel will teach school children about Metro Orange Line safety when schools begin their fall academic year.