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With Power Line Restrung, Gold Line Trains Back on Schedule

- Wayside crews worked 'round-the-clock shifts

(Aug. 30, 2005) Metro Gold Line trains were back on schedule by 8 a.m., Tuesday, following a 35-hour, 'round-the-clock effort by Metro Rail wayside crews to restring a downed catenary power line.

Trains had been single-tracking between the Lake Avenue station and the Memorial Park station since about 4 p.m. Sunday, after a northbound train operator spotted the downed line on the southbound track.

On Monday, Metro Gold Line service was running about every 20 minutes during the peak periods, instead of every 10 minutes.

The line fell when a component apparently failed, said Rob Chappell, deputy executive officer, Rail Operations. The failed component will be sent back to the manufacturer for analysis.

Chappell said Metro expects to be fully reimbursed for the repair work by Kiewitt/Washington, the prime Gold Line contractor, since the system is still under warranty.

Traction Power crews began work to restore power on the line at about 8 p.m. on Sunday and completed the job at 7 p.m., Tuesday. Track Department personnel had to grind and smooth areas where the arcing power line caused slight damage to the rails.

"They did a good job," said Chappell. "Nobody really knows what we do until something breaks."