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**Sign of the Times** > Metro Orange Line on board Oct. 29.



Photo by Juan Ocampo

## Oct. 29 Set as Official Opening Date Set for Orange Line Opening

- Free public rides, community festivities planned for opening day weekend
- Volunteers will be needed for crowd control each day

By DAVE SOTERO

(Sept. 6, 2005) Heralding a new era in transit service for the San Fernando Valley, Metro plans to officially open the Metro Orange Line Saturday, Oct. 29 to free public rides and festive community celebrations.

"The opening of the Metro Orange Line represents a milestone for the citizens of the San Fernando Valley, who have waited decades for an innovative transportation solution to help relieve some of the most congested freeway corridors in the country," said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "I urge all Angelenos to join me in riding the Metro Orange Line and the entire Metro Bus and Rail System whenever possible."

The public will get their first opportunity to ride the new 60-foot Metro Liners on the 14-mile transitway on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 29-30.

"I and many San Fernando Valley citizens have dedicated the better part of the last seven years to bringing this transit project to a successful conclusion," said Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. "This is an LA solution to an LA traffic problem. When the Orange Line succeeds — as I know it will — it will serve as a regionwide model that offers commuters a quick, reliable, flexible and inexpensive alternative to

gridlock.”

### **Community celebrations planned**

On Saturday, community celebrations are planned between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at several stations along the route, including the North Hollywood, Van Nuys, Balboa, Pierce College and Warner Center stations. No community events are scheduled on Sunday.

Metro employees will be asked to volunteer to assist with crowd control during the two-day opening period, according to Danielle Boutier, director, Communication Services, who is coordinating the opening events. Details and sign-up forms will be available soon.

“The Metro Orange Line will bring quicker, more efficient bus service to Valley commuters and easier access to the expansive, countywide Metro Bus and Rail system,” said Roger Snoble, CEO of Metro. “We encourage everyone to jump on board and experience the Valley’s new shortcut for themselves.”

Construction on the Orange Line, the first-of-its-kind-transitway project in Southern California, began in January 2003. Ridership on the line is expected to reach an average of 22,000 boardings per day by 2020.

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