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Orange Line rising at Winnetka Station.



Photo by Ned Racine

Metro Orange Line Construction Reaches Substantial Completion

- Transitway represents several 'firsts' for LA County

By DAVE SOTERO

(Sept. 30, 2005) Metro marked the substantial completion of the Metro Orange Line, Friday, with a media preview of the San Fernando Valley's new 14-mile transitway, due to open to the public, Oct. 29.

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Board member Pam O'Connor, CEO Roger Snoble and Deputy CEO John Catoe, local reporters and camera crews got an authentic passenger experience as a sleek Metro Liner drove the line at full operational speeds, pausing at the 13 stations between North Hollywood and Woodland Hills.

Since 2003, construction crews have worked to convert the old Southern Pacific railroad right-of-way, making major street and intersection improvements and building pedestrian and bicycle paths.

The new transitway represents several firsts for Los Angeles County: it is the region's first right-of-way built exclusively for buses. It is the Valley's first major transit service since the opening of the Metro Red Line in 2000. It is also the first time that Metro Liner buses will be placed into revenue service.

'Region-wide model'

"When the Orange Line succeeds – as I know it will – it will serve as a region-wide model that offers commuters a quick, reliable, flexible and inexpensive alternative to gridlock," said Yaroslavsky.

More than 20 Metro local and Metro Rapid Bus Lines will connect with the Metro Orange Line, as well as some Burbank Bus, Commuter Express and Santa Clarita Transit lines. Ridership on the line is expected to reach an average of 22,000 boardings per day by 2020.

The transitway will incorporate a host of innovative construction and design features. Five park & ride lots at Van Nuys, Sepulveda, Balboa, Reseda and Pierce College Stations will provide more than 3,200 parking spaces.

The project includes eight miles of new bicycle and pedestrian paths and California native landscaping.