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In the past six months, deputies have written some 500 traffic citations on the Metro Orange Line, Sheriff Lee Baca said, Monday, at a media event emphasizing safety on the transitway. He was joined by, from left, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and City Councilmember Wendy Greuel, all of whom called for motorists, bikers and pedestrians to obey traffic signals at Orange Line intersections. The point was underscored when a car ran a red light in front of the bus carrying officials and media to the event, almost causing an accident.



Photo by Juan Ocampo

Metro Orange Line Opens This Weekend to the Public

- VIP ceremony scheduled, Friday, at Balboa station

(Oct. 25, 2005) Almost three years in the building, the Metro Orange Line is set for its official opening, Friday, with five public events scheduled, Saturday, and free rides for the public throughout the weekend.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, CEO Roger Snoble and other elected officials and community leaders will participate in Grand Opening ceremonies at the Balboa station, about midway along the 14-mile transitway.

At midmorning, the inaugural Metro Liner carrying the VIPs will burst through a banner as it approaches the station. That bus will be driven by Transportation Operations Supervisor Steve Rank, a member of the Orange Line special projects team.

More than 500 Metro volunteers are expected on Saturday to assist at community events planned at five Orange Line stations. No events are planned for Sunday, Oct. 30. Buses will run Saturday from 6 a.m. to 8

p.m. and Sunday from 5 a.m. to midnight.

The community celebrations are scheduled between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m at the North Hollywood, Van Nuys, Balboa, DeSoto and Warner Center stations. Activities will include music, food vendors, a pumpkin patch and haunted house, live radio broadcast and marching bands.

Orange Line operators

Twenty-six full-time operators have been named as the first of those who will drive the 14-mile route over the years to come. Nine extra-board operators also will work Metro Liner shifts.

The full-time operators are Anita Allen-Roberts, Agustin Alvarado, Victor Contreras, Liam Daly, Betty Edwards-Hall, Gilbert Felix, Kamran Firouzi, Ernesto Garcia, Andrew Harris, Robert Higbee, Michael Korp and Daniel Mathison.

Also, Terry McCrary, Betty Mosley, Gerardo Perez, Hugo Repreza, Sabrina Sparks, Edgar Tormos, Timothy Valdes, Lea Scott, Shakana Contreras, Gerald Nolen, Isabelo Pascual, Francisco Escobedo, James Green and Shiv Bhardwaj.