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On the job: TOS Fenee Dixon-Turner, service attendant Kenny McGee, TOS Edward King and schedule maker Steve Tontz.



Articulated Buses to Debut, Dec. 18, on Vermont, Western Avenues

By REINA V. SLUTSKE

(Nov. 22, 2005) Forty-one 60-foot articulated buses will make their debut on the streets of Los Angeles, Dec. 18, to serve two Metro Rapid lines: Line 754 on Vermont Avenue, and a new line, the 757 on Western Avenue.

Currently, the red and silver "artics" have completed test runs to determine obstacles and layover zones prior to the start of revenue runs.



On the job: AWD Division 5 assistant transportation manager Keith Green, schedule supervisor Thang Tran, TOS Edward King and schedule maker Steve Tontz.

"This type of testing is usually done on new routes, but, basically, these routes are not new," said Madeline Van Leuvan, South Bay Service Sector schedules manager. "We are conducting these tests for compatibility of the 60-foot articulated buses with current street conditions."

According to Van Leuvan, the artics will be used on some Rapid lines to save operating costs by carrying more passengers. Adjustments are being made to ensure that the longer buses similar to those used on the Orange Line, will operate safely on city streets.

Stops may be expanded

Transportation Planning Manager Stephen Fox says some of the bus stops along Vermont and Western avenues had to be expanded to handle the long articulated buses.

Changes include adjusting parking areas and street furniture such as newspaper racks by working with LADOT to accommodate the artics.

Another point of concern was a turning movement at the south terminal. According to Thang Tran, schedules supervisor for the South Bay Service Sector, due to traffic conditions, a difficult left-hand turn departing the Metro Green Line station onto 120th Street required planners to design an alternate route.