



[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)
- ▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Events Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Research Center/ Library](#)
- ▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

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[ Metro History Fact ]

LA’s First Subway Opened on Dec. 1, 1925

On this day in 1925, Pacific Electric held a grand opening ceremony for Los Angeles’ first subway, which reached from Beverly and Glendale boulevards to the Subway Terminal Building at 4th and Hill streets.

While the subway tunnel was in planning for 10 years and under construction for one year, Pacific Electric hoped to attract investment for future extensions.

Cultural and demographic changes led to the demise of the privately run rail system in Los Angeles. In 1955, the last train ran through the tunnel. The tunnel was then used for a number of years by the federal government for Civil Defense supply storage.

There was a proposal to reuse the tunnel as a downtown people-mover system linked to park and ride lots, but the tunnel was later rendered unusable for transit purposes when new high-rise building foundations severed it.

– Courtesy of Metro Research Center