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Express Line 577X Will Connect El Monte and Long Beach

- New bus line starts service with free rides, Dec. 19-20
- Line 577X joins 450X as Metro's second express service

By DAVE SOTERO

(Dec. 9, 2005) Metro will launch a brand new express bus line, Dec. 19, that will speed commuters between El Monte and Norwalk in about 30 minutes and between Norwalk and Long Beach in 20 minutes, cutting riders' commute times nearly in half.

The new line will be introduced during a grand opening ceremony at 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 16, at the VA Medical Center in Long Beach. Rides on the new Metro Express Line 577X will be free to the public Dec. 19 and 20.

The 577X buses will use HOV lanes on the 605 Freeway for most of the 28-mile route and the new line will make only four local stops.

"This is a corridor we've never had service on before, so we're blazing a new trail here for our transit patrons," said Gateway Cities General Manager Alex Clifford.

Second express line

Express Line 577X is the second service in the Metro Express bus program. It joins Express Line 450X, which debuted in June 2005 to provide service between the Artesia Transit Center to downtown LA along Harbor Freeway HOV lanes.

Southbound service will begin at the El Monte Transit Center, which has connections with 27 other bus lines, then travel directly to the Norwalk Metro Green Line station in about 30 minutes.

It will then continue on to Long Beach, stopping only at the VA Medical Center and the Cal State Long Beach campus 20 minutes later.

End-to-end, Metro Express Line 577X will take about 50 minutes, a distance that could take a solo driver up to an hour and a half to complete during morning and afternoon rush hours.

Buses will depart weekdays every 20 minutes during the peak periods of 5:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and every 30 minutes during the off-peak times of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. After 8 p.m., buses will run every 60 minutes until 11 p.m.