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Metro Blue Line Expected Back in Full Service, Friday Morning

- Truck accident in Compton caused significant damage to power lines
- Car accident in Long Beach also damaged catenary wires

By DAVE SOTERO

(March 28, 2006) Metro anticipates that service on the Metro Blue Line will be fully restored by Friday morning, March 31. The power lines above the southbound track were significantly damaged in an early morning car accident, March 20, in Compton.

Metro determined the accident damage to be more serious and time-consuming than early assessments, with major repairs required to rebuild the Blue Line's power system infrastructure near the Artesia station.

Repair work includes replacing 1,200 feet of overhead power lines, installation of new guide wire poles and pole foundations.

As repairs progressed in Compton, power lines above the southbound Blue Line tracks on Long Beach Boulevard near 20th Street in Long Beach were knocked down early Sunday, March 26, when the driver of a 1992 Buick Regal lost control and struck a palm tree, pushing it onto the catenary wires, City News Service reported.

A 31-year-old Long Beach woman was fatally injured in the fiery crash, which occurred shortly after midnight. Her 28-year-old husband and 11-day-old son were hospitalized with serious injuries.

A Metro Rail wayside crew repaired the damage to the wires and restored service in that section about 9 a.m., Sunday.

Significant progress in Compton

Although wayside crews have made significant progress on repairs in Compton, both northbound and southbound trains will continue to share one track between the Del Amo and Artesia stations.

Service delays of between 30-35 minutes are expected for trains running end-to-end between Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Trains will continue to run every 15 minutes between Long Beach and the Del Amo station and between Los Angeles and the Artesia station.

Three people were killed in the March 20 accident in Compton when a pickup truck veered off the westbound 91 Freeway at Acacia Avenue about 2 a.m. and plunged some 130 feet down an embankment, then burst into flames, according to City News Service.

As it tumbled down the embankment, the pickup tore out a section of

the overhead catenary wires above the Blue Line's southbound tracks.

Since the accident occurred, Metro has operated a fleet of five supplemental buses for Metro Blue Line patrons between the Del Amo and Artesia stations.

Alternative service is provided on Line 60-360 from Long Beach to Los Angeles via Long Beach Boulevard, Pacific Boulevard, Santa Fe Avenue and 7th Street.

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