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Articulated Buses Now Running on Wilshire's Metro Rapid Line 720

- 78 'artics' to help relieve standing loads in one of LA County's busiest transit corridors

By DAVE SOTERO

(May 4, 2006) Placing high-capacity buses where they're needed most, Metro is now phasing in 60-foot articulated buses on Metro Rapid Line 720, the agency's first and most successful rapid bus line operating on heavily congested Wilshire Boulevard.

By the end of July, all buses running on Line 720 will be articulated. During peak morning and afternoon periods, a total of 78 "artics" will operate on the line.

Metro also plans to operate all Line 720 buses the entire length of the bus route by the end of June. Some buses are now scheduled to stop in Westwood and in downtown Los Angeles. This change will ensure that all riders will be able to get to their destinations no matter what bus they take.

"Metro's introduction of articulated buses on Metro Rapid Line 720 will provide immediate relief to the more than 40,000 riders who commute daily along this heavily congested urban corridor," said CEO Roger Snoble. "These higher capacity buses will help alleviate standing the loads we typically see on this line, a service improvement that our customers will surely appreciate."

With room for 57 seated passengers, the buses will provide 43 percent more seating capacity than Metro's standard 40-passenger, 40-foot buses.

Metro has placed articulated buses on several of its bus services, including the Metro Orange Line, Metro Rapid Line 757 on Western and Metro Rapid Line 754 on Vermont.

Metro Rapid Line 720 provides access to the communities of Commerce, downtown and midtown Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Westwood and Santa Monica.