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Metro officials and executives from Italian rail car manufacturer AnsaldoBreda, Inc. officially welcome the new 2550 light rail vehicle on a test run at Union Station July 28, 2005. Photo by Gayle Anderson

## Metro's Newest Light Rail Car – the 2550 – Preps for Debut on Gold Line

By NED RACINE

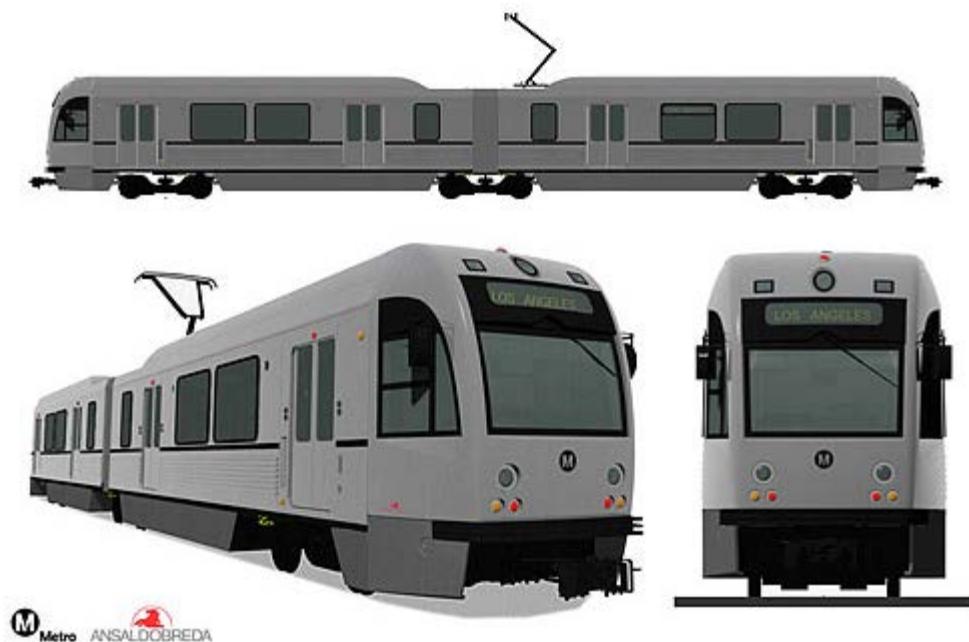
(Jan. 25, 2007) The sleek 2550 light rail vehicle will soon debut on the Metro Gold Line, offering Rail Operations more flexibility in eventually transporting riders along the agency's three light rail lines.

Unlike earlier light rail cars, the 2550 vehicle will service all Metro light rail lines: Blue, Gold, Green and the Gold Line Eastside Extension, currently under construction. This is possible because the 2550's electronics adapt to the signaling systems of each light rail line.

Metro has tested the 2550 prototype vehicle since it was flown to Los Angeles in June 2005. The first three "production cars" were received from the manufacturer recently and two more cars, each costing \$2.9 million, are expected to arrive in February.

Metro has ordered 50 of the 90-foot-long vehicles, each weighing a trim 5.4 tons, from AnsaldoBreda of Naples, Italy, also the manufacturer of the 104 heavy rail vehicles used on the Metro Red Line.

The 2550 contract includes two 50-car options for the procurement of additional rail cars. The last of the 50 cars from the current order will reach Rail Operations in 2008.



Each car seats 76, including space for four wheelchairs. The cars feature a stainless steel body and eight doors, each door compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Because of its floor plan, the 2550 presents fewer obstacles to riders using wheelchairs or walkers.

Enhanced security features in the 104.75-inch-wide cars include six video surveillance cameras and two silent alarms. Combining a global positioning system with six interior public address speakers, each car will automatically announce its arrival at the light rail stations.

The air-conditioned cars have a maximum speed of 65 miles per hour.