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CEO Roger Snoble leads the official opening of the Metro Orange Line Oct. 28, 2005. Ridership now exceeds estimates projected for the year 2020.



Photo by Gary Leonard

Metro Orange Line Ridership Exceeds 2020 Estimate

(April 12, 2007) Metro Orange Line ridership hit an all-time high in March when an average of 23,243 weekday boardings was recorded – an objective the transitway was not expected to reach until 2020.

"We exceeded the 2020 estimates in the first 18 months of operation, and it continues to build," said San Fernando Valley General Manager Richard Hunt. "We added more service in January to address the heavy loads and that additional capacity is now being used."

Hitting the 23,243 mark is a 28 percent increase in boardings compared to March 2006. Total boardings for March were 619,875, an increase of over 24 percent from the previous year.

Ridership estimates prior to opening the Metro Orange Line were 17,000 weekday boardings by the year 2009, and 22,000 weekday boarding by the year 2020.

"Reaching this milestone is a result of the quality of service we provide in helping people get to destinations important to them," Board Chair Gloria Molina told the Los Angeles *Times*.

Noting that Metro has increased the number of peak hour buses on the Orange Line, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said, "It continues to reflect Angelenos' desire to have better alternatives to sitting in a single-

occupancy vehicle on the freeway for an hour and a half.”

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