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Metro gets ready as the Los Angeles Marathon changes course for the 2009 race, returning to the loop course that begins and ends in downtown Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Marathon XXIII let loose at Universal City in 2008. Photo by Gary Leonard.

## A spectator sport: One million race fans will line the course of the L.A. Marathon

- Eight Metro Rail stations are within walking distance of 24th L.A. Marathon 26-mile course that begins and ends in downtown Los Angeles
- This year's course on Memorial Day will impact 43 Metro Bus lines in downtown Los Angeles, Mid-City, USC/Exposition Park, West Adams, Mid-Wilshire, Hancock Park, Beverly Hills, Crenshaw District and Koreatown.

By José Ubaldo

(May 19, 2009) With more than 20,000 participants, 12,000 volunteers, and one million spectators along the course route, Metro Rail continues to be the best way for race fans to view thousands of runners during the 24th annual Los Angeles Marathon to be held Memorial Day, Monday, May 25.

The course for this year's race is the popular 2005-2006 loop course, which starts in the midst of downtown Los Angeles at Fifth and Figueroa streets and finishes in the shadow of the historic Los Angeles Central Library at Flower and Fifth streets on Monday morning.

The route starts in downtown Los Angeles and makes a grand loop to the south and west before heading east to the finish line. Runners will pass landmarks including Staples Center, the University of Southern California, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, see the Hollywood sign and Griffith Observatory in the distance and run along the city border with Beverly Hills before heading back east via the Miracle Mile and passing the Los Angeles

County Museum of Art and the LaBrea Tar Pits as they head to the finish downtown.

Eight Metro Rail stations will be within walking distance of the 26-mile race course. The closest Metro Rail stations to the Marathon route will be 7th Street Metro Center and Pershing Square stations on the Metro Red/Purple Line subway, just a few blocks from the beginning and the end of the race in the heart of downtown Los Angeles.

The Metro Blue Line Pico/Chick Hearn station is also close to the race course along Figueroa Street. Other Metro Rail stations will be Westlake/McArthur Park, Wilshire/Vermont and Wilshire/Normandie, a short walk to Olympic Boulevard. The Wilshire/Western station is close either to Olympic Boulevard or Gramercy Place. All Metro Rail service will run on a Sunday schedule.

This year's course will impact 43 Metro Bus lines in downtown Los Angeles, Mid-City, USC/Exposition Park, West Adams, Mid-Wilshire, Hancock Park, Beverly Hills, Crenshaw District and Koreatown.

The bus services changes and detours for the Metro Bus system will occur between 4 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Metro Bus lines impacted by this year's LA Marathon will included: 16, 18, 20, 26, 28, 30, 33, 35, 37, 38, 40, 42, 51, 53, 55, 60, 62, 66, 81, 102, 105, 200, 204, 206, 207, 210, 212, 217, 305, 439, 444, 445, 446, 460, 487, 534, 720, 754, 757, 760.