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Metro Snapshots by Rich Morallo

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Metro Provides 24-Hour Service on Line 115 for Free Clinic

By Rich Morallo  
*Special to myMetro*

(August 18, 2009) The bundled-up lady carrying a shopping bag stepped down from the Line 115 bus on Manchester Avenue on Wednesday, August 12 at 4:35 a.m. and crossed the street to make her way to the Inglewood Forum.

Nora had travelled from the San Fernando Valley early that morning to reach the Remote Area Medical (RAM) free health clinic in Inglewood. Medical staff start seeing patients as early as 5:30 a.m. and are providing free dental, medical and vision checkups for a week at the Forum. As many as 1500 residents show up each day before 5 a.m. to wait in line for the clinic.

Nora and other Los Angeles residents are using increased bus service set up by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and Metro from August 11 to 18 to help transport people to the clinic. "We are scheduling extra bus service starting midnight to 5 a.m.," remarked South Bay Services Development Manager Madeline Van Leuvan. "Metro is providing 24-hour service on

Manchester for the duration of the clinic," she added.

The added service runs every 30 minutes from Firestone and Atlantic in South Gate to the Inglewood Transit Center in Inglewood.

"We didn't hesitate to step up to the plate when the community needed public transportation in the early hours of the day to get to these medical services, " said South Bay General Manager Dana M. Coffey. "We are delighted to join the RAM organizers, medical staff and volunteers in helping the public," the general manager said.