



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METRO BUS PASSENGERS CAN RIDE FOR 50-CENTS ON L.A. MARATHON RACE DAY; RED LINE SUBWAY PASSENGERS TO RIDE FOR FREE

MTA bus service fares will be reduced to 50 cents and the Metro Red Line will be free to MTA passengers on Sunday, March 2 to enable race enthusiasts to attend the 12th Annual City of Los Angeles Marathon.

The MTA Board of Directors today approved the special fare reductions to encourage attendance at the world class event.

The MTA also will temporarily reroute 46 bus lines in Los Angeles and Hollywood on race day. The service changes will begin at 4:30 a.m. in the Hollywood area, and at 5 a.m. in downtown Los Angeles, Exposition Park and Mid-Wilshire. While some detours will remain in effect until 5 p.m., several lines intersecting the southern half of the Marathon route will be back to normal by midday, some within two hours.

"The MTA Board recognizes that bus service will be disrupted in those areas during much of the day" said MTA Board Chairman Larry Zarian. "We hope the reduced fares will lessen the inconvenience and, at the same time, heighten interest in this great sporting event which has become a Los Angeles tradition."

One hundred thousand brochures, each containing a map and printed in English and Spanish, were placed on Metro buses and trains Sunday and Wednesday of this week to notify passengers of the changes.

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An additional 1,000 brochures will be distributed to LAPD motorcycle officers, patrol units, and Marathon staff members positioned along the race route Sunday as well as to Department of Transportation personnel who erect and staff course barricades.

While fewer bus routes will be impacted by the Marathon this year, the new race course includes two lengthy stretches of Wilshire Boulevard. As a result MTA will utilize heavily the Metro Red Line and its Wilshire Extension which was opened last July.

People using Wilshire Boulevard from downtown should board the Red Line there and take it to Vermont Avenue. At that point they'll be shuttled to Rossmore Avenue where buses will be waiting on the other side of the course for transporting riders further west.

The Marathon bike tour will begin at 6 a.m. at Universal CityWalk. The wheelchair race starts at 8:35 a.m. at Fifth Street and Figueroa, just two blocks from the Metro Red and Blue Line's Seventh Street/Metro Center station. Ten minutes later at 8:45 a.m. nearly 20,000 Marathon runners will begin their 26.2 mile trek on Figueroa between Fifth and Sixth Streets and finish at Fifth and Flower streets. The 5K race will begin at 9:30 a.m., while 2,000 inline skaters will take to the streets at 9:45 a.m., both races starting at 12th and Figueroa.

MTA bus patrons are advised to plan their trips early, obtain a brochure on route and schedule changes for Metro buses, or call 1-800-COMMUTE. Schedule and route information also is available by calling (213) 626-4455 or (310) 320-9442 between 6 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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