



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA BOARD EXPANDS LATE NIGHT METRO RAIL AND BUS OPERATIONS TO SERVE STAPLES CENTER AND MUSIC CENTER PATRONS

The MTA Board of Directors today approved a pilot project which will expand late night Metro Rail and Metro Bus operations through June 2000 to provide additional service to patrons and employees of Staples Center and the Music Center.

Staples Center is adjacent to the Metro Blue Line Pico Station. Under the plan, the last southbound train will depart Pico Station at 11:47 p.m., as opposed to 11:27 p.m. under the current schedule. The MTA will add one additional round trip in each direction on the Metro Green Line to accommodate Metro Blue Line passengers transferring at the Rosa Parks Station.

The last northbound Metro Blue Line train currently departs Pico Station at 10:54 p.m. The MTA will add two later departures at 11:14 p.m. and 11:34 p.m. One additional Metro Red Line trip will accommodate passengers arriving at the 7th/Metro Station who require westbound service to the Wilshire/Western Station, and two additional trips will accommodate passengers requiring westbound service to the Hollywood/Vine Station. An additional eastbound train will depart at 11:59 p.m. to accommodate passengers requiring service from the 7th/Metro Station to Union Station.

The MTA also will add trips on Metro Bus Lines 30 and 81, which operate directly adjacent to Staples Center. The additional trips will improve the service frequency from once an hour to every 15-30 minutes until 12 a.m.

The MTA will operate the extended Metro Bus and Rail service nightly due to the frequency of nighttime events at Staples Center and the Music Center, which is located one block north of the Metro Red Line Civic Center Station.

More...

Page 2 of 2 MTA Board Expands Late Night Service

"I believe that providing these expanded services to Staples Center and Music Center patrons and employees will accomplish two important goals," said LA County Supervisor and MTA Board Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. "It will cut traffic congestion, and it will extend Metro Rail and Metro Bus services to a whole new ridership."

To date, the MTA has experienced approximately 300-500 additional boardings on the Metro Blue Line following sporting events at Staples Center. Ridership on Metro Buses operating near Staples Center also has increased.

The pilot project will require 45 days to implement and will cost approximately \$160,000 to operate from April 2000 through the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2000. If funds are not available to cover this service expansion in future years, or if ridership does not increase during this trial period, the expanded service will be terminated at the end of FY 2000.

MTA staff will monitor ridership and report back to the Board in May, and it will continue to look for longer term funding to sustain or further expand the hours of operation to meet passenger demand.

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