



NEWS

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ON RED LINE'S THIRD ANNIVERSARY, RIDERSHIP ON ALL MTA RAIL LINES IS UP 23 PERCENT OVER 1994

As it marked the third anniversary of the Metro Red Line, which opened Jan. 30, 1993, the MTA announced today that ridership on its three rail lines totaled 20.5 million in 1995, a 23 percent increase over 1994.

Figures compiled by the MTA showed that ridership jumped by one million boardings each on the Metro Blue Line and Metro Red Line in 1995. The Metro Green Line recorded 1.6 million boardings during its first five months of operation.

Following the opening of the Green Line in August, daily boardings on the Blue Line spurted upward by 8,000. The Red Line showed an increase of 2,000 daily boardings.

"The opening of the Green Line and its effect on the Blue and Red lines demonstrates that as the MTA improves regional access by adding new rail segments, ridership increases dramatically," said Larry Zarian, MTA Board chairman and Glendale city councilman. "These ridership increases have proven the wisdom of building an efficient mass transit system."

In the three years since opening day, Red Line daily boardings have risen from about 14,000 to an average of 20,700 each week day. The line gained almost a half-million riders from 1994, averaging 485,975 boardings a month in 1995.

(MORE)

The Red Line currently serves five stations between Union Station on the east and MacArthur Park on the west. Three additional stations will be added at Vermont, Normandie and Western avenues when the MTA opens the 2.1-mile Wilshire corridor next summer.

Looking individually at the MTA's rail lines, the Metro Blue Line recorded 12.65 million boardings in 1995, an 11.1 percent increase over 1994, when there were 11.4 million boardings. The Blue Line, which opened in July, 1990, averages 41,500 boardings each week day.

The Metro Red Line experienced 6.3 million boardings in 1995, a 17.7 percent increase over 1994, when there were 5.3 million boardings. The Red Line averages 21,500 boardings each week day.

The Metro Green Line, which recorded a total of 1.6 million boardings in 1995, averaged 12,400 boardings each week day during its first five months of operation.

"All these numbers add up to one fact," said Joseph E. Drew, MTA interim chief executive officer. "More people are riding our trains because they are fast, safe and clean and because they can make convenient connections with our bus system. That's the idea behind the integrated transit system we're building in Los Angeles County."

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