



# NEWS

JULY 22, 1996

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## METRO RAIL RIDERSHIP CONTINUES TO CLIMB

Metro Red Line weekday ridership jumped by more than 6,000 on several days in the first week of operation of the line since three new stations were opened, at Vermont, Normandie, and Western Avenues.

"We are pleased at the response from the public to the opening of the extension along Wilshire Boulevard," said Larry Zarian, MTA Board Chairman. "We now have 44 stations in operation on all MTA rail lines, and we expect to see ridership continue to climb."

Weekday ridership on the Red Line is expected to increase to about 40,000 a day in the next several months. June weekday ridership on the Line averaged 23,200 passengers a day.

MTA officials noted that the Blue Line recorded a new all-time weekday high in June when ridership on the 22-mile system linking Los Angeles and Long Beach rose to 48,900, a 29.3 percent increase from June 1995. An average of 13,650 weekday riders used the Green Line in June.

"We expect to see a greater use of public transit in Los Angeles as more and more people discover the convenience and linkage of the rail and bus system," said Joseph E. Drew, MTA CEO. "Riding the Metro system can save money and time, as well as beat the hassle of solo driving on Los Angeles freeways and highways."

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MTA-155