



# NEWS

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## MTA ANNOUNCES BUS SCHEDULE CHANGES ON WILSHIRE CORRIDOR

On September 15, the MTA will implement changes to bus service on Wilshire Boulevard designed to reduce congestion, make the bus system more efficient, and take advantage of the faster travel times available on the Metro Red Line.

"We're eliminating duplication of bus and rail service along Wilshire Boulevard by terminating our limited stop service at the Wilshire/Western Metro Red Line Station," explained MTA Chairman Larry Zarian. "At the same time, we're expanding local service on Wilshire Boulevard and providing additional feeder bus service to enhance access to the Red Line."

Routes 320 and 322 will be shortened to begin and end their runs at the Wilshire/Western Station. Passengers from those lines can transfer, free of charge, to the Red Line or to local bus service provided by Lines 20, 21 and 22. Rail passengers traveling west can likewise transfer any Line 20, 21, 22, 320, 322 and 426 Wilshire Boulevard bus at no charge by presenting their rail ticket to the bus operator.

MTA staff will be at the Wilshire/Vermont and Wilshire/Western Stations and aboard Wilshire buses for two weeks, beginning September 9, to hand out brochures explaining the service modifications and answer patrons' questions.

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"We want this transition from bus to rail to be as seamless as possible," said Joe Drew, MTA's chief executive officer. "Our passengers will find that connections are easy, and their trip times will be reduced by several minutes."

The Red Line travels at an average speed of 33 miles per hour, including stops, and makes the trip from Union Station to Western Avenue in 12 minutes.

The Wilshire Corridor of the Metro Red Line, with stations at Vermont, Normandie and Western Avenues, opened to the public on July 13. Average daily ridership has already increased from 25,000 to nearly 35,000.

Reroutes of six other lines was implemented on July 15. Ending the limited stop service at the Western Station will further reduce bus traffic on Wilshire Boulevard, currently the second busiest bus route in Los Angeles County. These bus assets will be deployed to other areas.

A new limited stop service, Line 316, is now serving the Wilshire/Vermont Station from Century City via Third Street. Lines 21 and 22, which formerly ended at the Wilshire/MacArthur Park Station, will continue east downtown to a new terminus at 7<sup>th</sup> and Maple Streets.

The Western Station is expected to become a prominent local transit hub, with an initial 4,000 bus riders per day estimated to transfer to the rail line, with several thousand more transferring to local bus service.

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