



NEWS

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RIDING THE BLUE LINE NO LONGER ENDURANCE TEST; TRAFFIC SIGNAL ADJUSTMENTS RESULT IN SHORTER TRIP

Running a mile in less than four minutes is one standard of excellence - another is riding MTA's very popular Long Beach to Los Angeles Blue Line and reaching your destination four minutes sooner.

That particular standard became a reality for some 48,000 daily Blue Line passengers in mid-October when the light rail system traded in the "maxed" out look for a little breathing room.

"There will be less crowding and a lot more elbow room on the trains," said Chairman of the Board Larry Zarian. "Reducing the travel time by four minutes is a very significant development to the many hardworking individuals who depend on the Blue Line. This is great news."

A joint project undertaken by the MTA and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to alleviate over-crowding has resulted in the re-synchronization (rephased) of a block of traffic signals along that line's Pico to Washington Boulevard segment, following a Sept. 30-Oct. 11 test period to work out the kinks. Before the re-synchronization, ridership aboard Blue Line train equaled 190 percent of capacity during peak hours.

"As a result of this improvement, passengers from all walks of life, your judges, your business people, students, teachers, everyone, no longer have

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to worry about making a last second dash to their finish line," said Ellen Levine, Executive Officer, Transit Operations.

The signals, now timed to remain green whenever a Blue Line train approaches intersections along that stretch, will allow the train to proceed non-stop most of the time. For instance, a previous 15-minute trip from Washington Boulevard to 7th St./Metro Center, now only takes 11 minutes, and will possibly be reduced by another minute in December. All this without creating additional traffic congestion.

"It is of tantamount importance that the MTA always explore ways of providing better service to our passengers," said MTA Chief Executive Office Joseph Drew. "We are definitely planning to convert the savings on the Blue Line into more service in the near future."

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