



NEWS

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PROUD MTA EXPECTS ADDITIONAL BLUE LINE/GREEN LINE TRAINS TO REDUCE OVERCROWDING, IMPROVE SERVICE

The Blue Line and Green Line "joyfully announce" the addition of two new members to the MTA's light rail family of service.

Starting Dec. 16, an additional train will be added into service on both lines, increasing capacity and improving service for thousands of commuters who have discovered the ease and speed of using the rail systems.

With the addition of the trains, Blue Line passengers will be able to choose from 27 trips between Long Beach and downtown Los Angeles during the morning rush hours, up from 24 trips currently operated.

Green Line service also will improve during rush hours, with trains operating every six minutes from the Norwalk station between the hours of 6 a.m. to 6:30 a.m., a two-minute improvement. Trains will then arrive every seven minutes from 6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m., nearly 30 seconds faster than the current schedule.

"We are pleased to report that patronage on both the Green and Blue lines continues to increase," said Larry Zarian, MTA Chairman. "We have seen a 13 percent increase in ridership on the Blue Line in the past year. We now carry an average 45,500 passengers each weekday."

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The MTA Chairman also noted that ridership on the Green Line, which opened to passenger service in August of 1995, is up 60 percent compared to year ago. A total of 17,100 passengers use the line every weekday.

"The MTA constantly monitors the Green Line and Blue Line, and makes improvements whenever possible," said Joseph E. Drew, MTA chief executive officer. "The additional trains will, in many respects, enhance the quality of service. We are confident that this will lead to extra room for our passengers."

In October, round-trip travel time on the popular Long Beach to Los Angeles Blue Line was reduced by six minutes when signals between Pico and Washington boulevards were re-synchronized.

"The Blue Line signal adjustments, and now additional trains, is just what the transportation doctor ordered," said Los Angeles Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. "As future improvements take shape, the Blue Line and Green Line will become even more popular."

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