



NEWS

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CONTACT: MARY ANN MASKERY/
JIM SMART
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2736/922-2700
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MTA LAUNCHES LARGEST BUS SERVICE EXPANSION IN 20 YEARS

MTA will expand the Metro bus fleet by 53 vehicles this month, and adjust schedules and routing on a total of 93 lines.

This is the largest single expansion of the Metro bus fleet since 1976, and it will mean improved service in all sections of the county. A second installment of 51 buses will be added in June of next year.

"MTA is expanding its service, adding 53 additional buses on 34 Metro bus lines," said MTA Chairman Larry Zarian. "Under our 'Customer First' campaign, we are trying to match our schedules and routes to accommodate the changing needs of our customers. For example, that may mean changing schedules to coincide with current school hours, or redirecting lines to provide better access to new shopping centers. We will be changing or adjusting a total of 93 lines."

Two new Metro bus limited-stop lines will be inaugurated on December 30, utilizing 20 of the additional vehicles. The limited-stop service will move people more rapidly through heavily congested areas.

Metro bus Line 311-Limited will parallel the same route as Lines 111 and 112, serving Florence Avenue in South Central Los Angeles. A second limited-stop line, 394, will complement Line 94, on San Fernando Road, between downtown Los Angeles and the Sylmar Metrolink Station.

More...

BUS SERVICE EXPANDS, page two

Other additions will take place Dec. 15. A total of 13 buses will be added to two heavily used lines to reduce overcrowding. The buses will be added to the 30 and 31 Lines, serving West Pico Boulevard and East First Street, and to Lines 204-Local and 354-Limited on Vermont Avenue.

"Our goal is to reduce overcrowding on Pico and Vermont so that nearly everyone on these lines can have a seat," said Joseph Drew, MTA CEO. "The goal for the entire system is to increase capacity on all of our most crowded lines by the end of this month. Our long term goal is to add even more service to further reduce overcrowding," he added.

MTA officials noted another 20 buses will be added to Metro bus service, mostly during peak hours, in West Los Angeles, East Los Angeles, South Central Los Angeles, and the San Fernando Valley.

In West Los Angeles, two buses will be added in the morning rush hour on Lines 4 and 304, which serve Santa Monica Boulevard. On West Third Street, two buses will be added in the morning, and three in the afternoon, to Line 16, in order to expand capacity in the midday as well as during rush hours.

Also in West Los Angeles, there will be two additional buses in the morning and two in the afternoon on Lines 33 and 333 along Venice Boulevard.

Between Central and South Central Los Angeles, one bus will be added in the afternoon rush hour on Lines 26 and 51, which operate on 7th Street, San Pedro Street, and Avalon Boulevard

A morning and afternoon bus will be added to Lines 40 and 42 in the vicinity of Baldwin Hills where buses are being re-routed to provide Line 40 with more access to the Crenshaw Shopping Plaza. Line 42 will serve Leimert Boulevard.

More...

BUS SERVICE EXPANDS, page three

Line 60, which operates between Long Beach, Huntington Park, and downtown Los Angeles, will receive three extra buses in the morning and two in the afternoon.

One afternoon bus will be added to Line 81 on Figueroa Street. Line 108 on Slauson Avenue will receive one new bus in the afternoon. Line 206 on Normandie Avenue also will get one extra afternoon bus.

In East Los Angeles, Lines 66 and 67, which operate on East Olympic Boulevard and Eighth Street, will receive three extra buses in the afternoon. One bus will be added in the morning to Line 444, serving the South Bay area, and adjustments will be made to running time for the Harbor Transitway.

In the San Fernando Valley, Lines 90 and 91, operating between Los Angeles, Sunland, and Sylmar, will expand by one bus in the morning and one in the afternoon. Line 152, operating on Fallbrook Avenue, Roscoe Boulevard, Vineland Avenue, and into Burbank, will receive one extra bus in the morning. Line 158 on Devonshire Avenue and Woodman Street will get one extra morning bus.

Line 163 on Sherman Way and Hollywood Way will receive two more buses in the morning and one in the afternoon. Lines 164 and 165, serving Victory Boulevard and Vanowen Street, also will get two extra buses in the morning, and one in the afternoon.

Lines 234 will expand by one morning bus, running on Sepulveda Boulevard. Another morning bus will be added to Line 236 on Balboa Boulevard.

Service will be expanded during the midday on Line 18, serving Whittier Boulevard and West Sixth Street. Additional midday trips will be provided on Lines 45-46-345 on Broadway, and extra midday trips, plus one extra peak run, will be added to Line 76 on Valley Boulevard, between Los Angeles and El Monte.

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