



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA OPERATIONS PLANNERS HIT THE GROUND RUNNING IN PREPARATION FOR L.A.'s 12th ANNUAL MARATHON

An event the size of the Los Angeles Marathon has the potential to throw public transit for a loop in the absence of foresight and planning. Once again, however, an experienced team of MTA operations planners led by retired Senior Planner Russell Wilson will help thousands of Marathon Sunday bus passengers successfully navigate the streets of Los Angeles which, for the better part of a day, will be transformed into a virtual sea of runners, bicyclists, wheelchair racers and inline skaters.

The MTA temporarily will reroute 46 bus lines in Los Angeles and Hollywood during the 12th Annual City of Los Angeles Marathon on Sunday, March 2, 1997.

The service changes will begin at 4:30 a.m. in the Hollywood area, and at 5 a.m. in downtown Los Angeles, Exposition Park and Mid-Wilshire. While some detours will remain in effect until 5 p.m., several lines intersecting with the southern half of the Marathon route will be back to normal by mid-day, some within two hours.

One hundred thousand brochures, each containing a map, will be placed on Metro buses and trains to notify passengers of the changes. They'll be placed in two installments, the first on Sunday, February 23, one week before the Marathon. The second group of brochures will be placed on buses and trains on Wednesday, February 26.

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"The brochure has proven to be a very good tool for the public," said Wilson. "Every line affected will be listed and the brochure will be printed in English and Spanish."

An additional 1,000 brochures will be distributed to LAPD motor officers, patrol units, and Marathon staff members positioned along the race route, as well as to Department of Transportation personnel who erect and staff course barricades.

While fewer bus routes will be impacted by the Marathon this year, the new race course includes two lengthy stretches of Wilshire Boulevard. So MTA will utilize heavily the Metro Red Line and its Wilshire Extension which was opened last July. People using Wilshire Boulevard from downtown should board the Red Line there and take it to Vermont Avenue. At that point they'll be shuttled to Rossmore Avenue where buses will be waiting on the other side of the course for transporting riders further west.

The Marathon bike tour will begin at 6 a.m. at Universal CityWalk. The wheelchair race starts at 8:35 a.m. at Fifth Street and Figueroa, just two blocks from the Metro Red and Blue Line's Seventh Street/Metro Center station. Ten minutes later at 8:45 a.m. nearly 20,000 Marathon runners will begin their 26.2 mile trek on Figueroa between Fifth and Sixth Streets and finish at Fifth and Flower streets. The 5K race will begin at 9:30 a.m., while 2,000 inline skaters will take to the streets at 9:45 a.m., both races starting at 12th and Figueroa.

MTA bus patrons are advised to plan their trips early, obtain a brochure on route and schedule changes for Metro buses, or call 1-800-COMMUTE. Schedule and route information also is available by calling (213) 626-4455 or (310) 320-9442 between 6 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

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