



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METRO BUSES AND TRAINS OFFER SPECIAL SERVICE FOR EIGHTH ANNUAL FIESTA BROADWAY CELEBRATION

As 36 square blocks in the heart of Los Angeles close down this Sunday, April 27, 1997, from noon to 6 p.m. for Fiesta Broadway, the largest Cinco de Mayo celebration in the country, Metro buses and trains will be running on special routes for what they predict will be a turn-out of over 300,000 participants.

"We encourage the public to leave their vehicles at home and enjoy the convenience of riding the Metro System to the event," says Linda Bohlinger, Interim CEO for the MTA. "We've been advertising on television, radio and various print mediums in order to make the public aware of the convenient travel alternatives on our system."

Beginning at 9 p.m. Friday, April 25, 1997, Broadway will be closed between Temple and First Streets. Beginning at 9 p.m. Saturday, April 26, 1997, and continuing through 5 a.m. Monday, April 28, 1997, Hill Street, Broadway and Spring Street will be closed to traffic between First and Olympic Boulevard. In addition, all east/west streets will be closed to through traffic between First Street and Olympic Boulevard.

MORE...

Fiesta Broadway Page 2

The following streets will remain open to bus and automobile traffic:

Temple Street

11th Street

12th Street

Olive Street

Grand Avenue

Main Street (northbound buses only)

Los Angeles Street

San Pedro Street

All Metro bus service affected by the street closures will be rerouted via detour notices. The public may refer to the respective detour notice for exact routing information, and also pick up additional free information about Metro services at the MTA Fiesta Broadway booth.

This eight annual Cinco de Mayo celebration commemorates the defeat of the French forces in Mexico's struggle for independence at the Batalla de Puebla on May 5, 1862. The Fiesta offers a day packed with activities for families. Popular national and international entertainers will perform on seven stages. There will be booths offering cultural wares and souvenirs as well as information and educational materials, and a variety ethnic cuisines to delight the palates of all participants from every background.

"Cinco de Mayo heightens our awareness of the Latino culture and inspires our enthusiasm," Bohlinger explains. "This celebration has deep historical and cultural meaning for this community. The MTA is proud to be a part of it."