



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE METRO BUSES ARE HEADED FOR THE STREETS; ROUTE CHANGES TO IMPROVE SERVICE DURING PEAK HOURS

Beginning Sunday, June 29, Metro Bus passengers will see improved service due to about two dozen route changes and the addition of more than 50 buses into service during weekday peak (i.e. rush) hours.

As part of the terms of a consent decree reached between MTA and the Bus Riders Union and approved in federal court last October, MTA will reduce the average maximum number of standees on its 43-seat Metro buses from 19 to 15. The reduction will be accomplished by adding 49 buses into service during the weekday morning peak hours of 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., and 48 buses into service during the afternoon peak hours of 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The service additions will reduce the number of standees during peak hours from 45 percent over seating capacity to 35 percent. Nearly 400,000 daily boarding passengers are expected to benefit from the new load standard.

"We're making excellent progress at fulfilling the letter and the spirit of the consent decree," said MTA Board Chairman Larry Zarian. "These service additions are good for our Metro Bus passengers and good for MTA."

On MTA contracted lines operated by ATE Ryder, MTA will add four buses into service during the weekday morning peak hours (two on Line 125-Rosecrans Avenue, one on Line 232-Pacific Coast Highway, and one on Line 266-Rosemead Avenue/Lakewood Blvd.) and three buses during afternoon peak hours (one each on Lines 125, 232 and 266).

"MTA is making a significant change in service," said MTA Interim CEO Linda Bohlinger. "The service additions are another important step toward improving customer satisfaction by lessening overcrowding on Metro buses."

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The route changes going into effect June 29 include:

Line 16 (West 3rd Street)

Line 316 (West 3rd Street Limited) – Lines 16 and 316 will be coordinated to improve service. Line 316 service will increase during peak hours and will be extended into downtown Los Angeles to Sixth Street/Central Avenue. Line 316 buses no longer will stop at the Metro Red Line Wilshire/Vermont Station and instead will continue eastbound on Third Street, making stops at Virgil Avenue, Alvarado Street, Witmer Street, and Sixth Street/St. Paul Avenue. Buses on both Line 16 and Line 316 will make all stops east of St. Paul Avenue. These changes will speed travel in the corridor for several thousand boarding passengers.

Line 18 (West 6th Street-Whittier Boulevard) – The line will be extended via Whittier Boulevard, Garfield Avenue and Flotilla Street and terminate at the Montebello Metrolink Station (2000 Flotilla St.) which is scheduled to open this fall. The route extension will be effective seven days a week. MTA passengers should look for future announcements of the grand opening and the commencement of Metro Bus service to the new rail station.

Line 20 (Wilshire Boulevard, also includes lines 21,22, 320 and 322) – A new limited bus stop will be added for lines 320 and 322 at Masselin Avenue at Museum Square.

Line 66 (West 8th Street-East Olympic Blvd.)

Line 67 (West 8th Street-East Olympic Blvd. via Olympic Direct) – Both lines will be extended via Olympic Blvd, Garfield Avenue, and Flotilla Street to the Montebello Metrolink Station (2000 Flotilla St.) which is due to open this fall. The route extension will be effective seven days a week. MTA passengers should look for future announcements of the grand opening and the commencement of Metro Bus service to the new rail station.

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Line 70 (Garvey Avenue) – Late night and owl service have been operating on an alternate route via Sybil Brand Institute. Due to the closure and reconstruction of that facility, Line 70 buses will resume operations on the regular route on Garvey Avenue seven days a week.

Line 78 (Main Street-Las Tunas Drive)

Line 79 (Huntington Drive) – Line 79 buses currently travel to downtown Los Angeles. Effective June 29, late night service on the line will be terminated at Huntington Drive and Maycrest Avenue where Los Angeles bound passengers may transfer to Line 78 buses to complete their trip. The frequency of buses on Line 79 will be increased from every two hours to every hour. A common stop and transfer point for westbound shuttle buses and through trips will be established at Huntington Drive/Alpha Street. Eastbound night passengers will use line 78 service to Maycrest Avenue, then transfer to the Line 79 shuttle.

Line 81 (Figueroa Street) – A stop on Spring Street at Seventh Street for late night service will be made permanent. Night service from Colorado Boulevard/Figueroa Street to Eagle Rock Plaza will be extended until midnight.

Line 94 (San Fernando Road)

Line 394 (San Fernando Road Limited) – All line 94 trips to and from Sylmar Juvenile Hall will go via Olive View Hospital. New limited stops on Line 394 will be established at San Fernando Road and Broadway (Glendale) and at San Fernando Road and Sonora Avenue.

Line 164 (Victory Boulevard)

Line 165 (Vanowen Street) – The terminal point for both routes will be changed from Valley Circle and Gilmore Street to Owensmouth Avenue between Oxnard Street and Erwin Street. Late night trips on Victory will go to Valley Circle terminal.

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Line 170 (Hellman Avenue-South El Monte) – The line will be re-routed in the Montebello area. Eastbound trips will operate on the north side of the Montebello Towne Center mall. Westbound trips will operate on the south side of the mall. A portion of the route being eliminated (along San Gabriel Boulevard between Paramount Boulevard/Hill Drive and Walnut Grove Avenue) is currently served by line 264, which will connect with Line 170 to facilitate transfers.

Line 210 (Crenshaw Boulevard) – Two night trips will be extended to South Bay Galleria from the Rosecrans Avenue intermediate terminal. The existing short line turn-around loop in the El Camino College parking lot will be used on Saturdays to provide additional service to Crenshaw and Redondo Beach boulevards.

Line 252 (Soto Street-California Avenue-Monterey Road) – MTA will inaugurate Sunday service north of Marengo Street via Soto Street and Huntington Drive to Monterey Road. Service will operate every 40 minutes.

Line 264 (Altadena Drive) – New Saturday and Sunday service will be provided by Line 267 on the portion of the Line 264 route between Lincoln Avenue and Altadena Drive and Altadena Drive and Lake Avenue (currently provided by Line 264 on weekdays only). Service will operate every hour.

Line 311 (Florence Avenue Limited) – Line 311 will be made permanent and incorporated into the schedule of Line 111 (Florence Avenue). Limited stop bus service will be extended both east of Garfield Avenue and west of Prairie Avenue (Daniel Freeman Hospital), making all local stops in those areas.

Line 426 (Wilshire Boulevard-San Fernando Valley Express) – Currently Line 426 does not permit passengers to both board and alight on stops from Third Street and Rossmore Avenue to Wilshire Boulevard. Effective June 30 this will change. Operators will pick up and discharge passengers at all Line 426 stops.

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Line 444 (Rancho Palos Verdes-Torrance-Downtown Los Angeles Express)

– The line will be rerouted into the Artesia Transitway Station upon the opening of the station on June 29.

Line 445 (San Pedro-Downtown Los Angeles Express) – The line will be rerouted to serve the Artesia Transitway Station via SR 91 and Albertoni Street. The Alpine Village loop will be deleted.

Line 497 (Montclair-Pomona-Downtown Los Angeles Express) – The line will be rerouted to use surface streets instead of the I-10 Freeway between the Caltrans Pomona Park and Ride lot and the Montclair Transit Center. Service will operate via McKinley Avenue, Orange Grove Avenue, Arrow Highway, Monte Vista Avenue and Richton Street. A new stop will be established on Arrow Highway at Claremont Boulevard/Mills Avenue. Two new stops will be added on the I-10 Freeway at Azuza Avenue and Puente Avenue for a six-month trial period.

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