



NEWS

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METRO RED LINE RIDERSHIP TOPS METRO BLUE LINE NUMBERS FOR FIRST TIME

For the first time in its six-and-a-half year history, the Metro Red Line subway has surpassed its sister rail line, the Metro Blue Line, in ridership.

In July, the first full month of operation of the 4.6-mile Vermont/Hollywood extension, the Metro Red Line notched a record 59,000 average weekday boardings, an increase of nearly 21,000 over the May figure of 38,250 average weekday boardings.

Ridership on the Metro Blue Line grew in July to 54,800 average weekday boardings, also an all-time high. It is a development that Keith Killough, deputy executive officer for countywide planning, says was not unexpected.

"Many Angelenos still are not aware of where the rail system goes and what destinations it serves, but a synergy is beginning to develop," said Killough. "As the rail system grows, so too will ridership."

"When the North Hollywood extension of the Metro Red Line opens in mid-2000, expect ridership to attain levels that few would have believed not too long ago," added Killough.

With the addition of the 4.6-mile Vermont/Hollywood extension, the Metro Red Line spans 11.1 miles from Union Station to Wilshire/Western and to Hollywood/Vine. The 22-mile-long Metro Blue Line reaches from downtown Los Angeles to Long Beach and is the nation's busiest light rail line. The 20-mile-long Metro Green Line stretches from Norwalk to Redondo Beach and operates primarily in the center median of the 105 (Century) Freeway.

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