



NEWS

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HIGH GASOLINE PRICES SEND SUBWAY RIDERSHIP SOARING IN MAY; NEW RECORD FOR LARGEST ONE-MONTH NUMERICAL INCREASE SET

The Metro Red Line subway has experienced its greatest one-month gain in numerical ridership since the system debuted in 1993, with the exception of new segment grand openings.

In May 2001, there were approximately 10,000 more weekday daily boarding passengers each day, 134,675, as compared to April 2001 when weekday daily boarding passengers averaged 125,050.

In May 2000, one-month before the 17.4 mile Metro Red Line opened in the San Fernando Valley, ridership equaled 65,150 weekday daily boarding passengers. Following the 6.3 mile extension, ridership soared to 119,150 weekday daily boarding passengers.

"Ridership has been building for the last two to three months," said MTA Analyst Ashok Kumar. "Although more analysis is required, including the origination of most of this new ridership, it appears the main reason for the increase is the continued high cost of gasoline.

"I would also speculate that the people in the Valley account for the highest share of the ridership increase since they find it much more economical to take the subway on long trips to downtown jobs."

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Overall, ridership on the 59.4 mile Metro Rail, which includes the 22-mile light rail Metro Blue Line and 20-mile light rail Metro Green Line, increased from 216,400 weekday daily boarding passengers in April 2001 to 228,750 weekday daily boarding passengers in May 2001. Ridership on the Metro Blue Line jumped from 62,850 weekday daily boarding passengers in April 2001 to 63,725 in May 2001. On the Metro Green Line, daily weekday boarding passengers in April 2001 grew from 28,500 to 30,350 in May 2001.

June ridership numbers are not expected to be released until mid-July.

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