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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Record Breaking Ridership Trend Continues on Metro Blue Line

(Los Angeles) - The Metro Blue Line's record-breaking run continued in July 2002 as average weekday boardings soared to 73,115. July was the third consecutive month in which average weekday boardings on the 22-mile line surpassed the 70-thousand mark.

"Since we opened it in July, 1990, the Metro Blue Line has been an extremely attractive travel alternative for people who commute between downtown Los Angeles and Long Beach," said Hal Bernson, MTA Board Chair. "Less than a year ago we responded to the line's growing popularity and added a third car to half of our peak hour trains and, no surprise, the additional capacity has lured more riders."

"The Metro Blue Line has successfully linked Long Beach and Los Angeles and demonstrates the growing need for public transportation," said Los Angeles County Supervisor and MTA Board Member Don Knabe. "This increase proves the strength of our growing mass transit network in Los Angeles County."

Average weekday boardings for July 2002 on the 20-mile Metro Green Line, which runs from Norwalk to Redondo Beach, reached 30,211. Average weekday boardings on the 17.4-mile Metro Red Line subway, which runs from downtown Los Angeles to the mid-Wilshire area and North Hollywood, hit 136,902.

The light rail Metro Blue and Green lines and the Metro Red Line make up the 59.4-mile Metro Rail system which will expand by another 13.7 miles in mid-2003 with the opening of the light rail Metro Gold Line. The Metro Gold Line will provide service along the densely populated corridor between Pasadena and Union Station in downtown Los Angeles. A 6-mile extension of the Metro Gold Line to East Los Angeles is on track to open in 2008.

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