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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro to Begin Testing Buses on Metro Orange Line Aug. 21

- Public advised to stay off transitway and to exercise caution at street intersections

Metro is set to begin testing buses on the Metro Orange Line as early as Sunday, August 21, and advises San Fernando Valley pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists, alike, to keep off the transitway and exercise caution at street intersections.

The agency's 60-foot articulated "Metro Liner" buses will begin running on the eastern portion of the Metro Orange Line between Lankershim Boulevard and Van Nuys Boulevard, which includes the North Hollywood, Laurel Canyon, Valley College, Woodman and Van Nuys Stations. Buses will run intermittently from 4 a.m. to 1 a.m. the next day up to seven days per week. In mid-September, testing on this portion of the transitway is expected to expand to include the entire 14-mile right-of-way spanning between North Hollywood and Warner Center in Woodland Hills and will continue until the scheduled opening of the line this Fall.

The Orange line is being built upon an old railroad right-of-way that parallels the 101 Freeway.

To ensure public safety during this testing and beyond, Metro is calling upon residents to be safe and avoid trespassing on the transitway. It is particularly important to obey all traffic signals and signage and to only cross the transitway on a green light or "Walk" signal. Strict adherence to all transitway signs and signals is critically important for motorists and pedestrians to follow now, as they will be sharing intersections with buses for the first time.

Metro has made major street and intersection improvements to ensure that motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians can travel harmoniously with Metro Liner vehicles through 36 major Valley intersections.

The agency will be working closely with law enforcement agencies to increase enforcement along the Metro Orange Line during testing. L.A. Sheriff's Department personnel will increasingly patrol the transitway, and may ticket trespassers who will then be subject to a fine. The L.A. Police Department will enforce traffic regulations on critical sections of city streets.

Metro's Community Relations Department is working with local residents to apprise them of the new testing schedule. The department is sending notices out to residents along the alignment as well as schools in the area. Metro's Safety Outreach Program, modeled after the successful outreach program implemented for the Metro Gold Line opening in 2003, will teach

school children about Metro Orange Line safety when schools begin their Fall academic year.

When complete, the Metro Orange Line will incorporate a host of innovative construction and design features, from advanced traffic light signal priority system to artistically designed transit stations, more than 3,000 parking spaces at five park & ride lots, bicycle and pedestrian paths and native landscaping.

For more information on the Metro Orange Line, visit [www.metro.net/orange line](http://www.metro.net/orange-line).

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