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**Safety's First.**

**Metro Implements Measures to Help Ensure Safety, Security on Metro Orange Line**

- Public urged to do its part to stay safe around transitway

Metro has implemented a number of initiatives to help ensure the Metro Orange Line operates with the utmost safety and security and asks the public to do its part by adhering to all traffic signals, posted signs and street striping along the 14-mile transitway.

"I'm committed to making the Metro Orange Line as safe and convenient as any line we operate, for everyone - passengers, motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike," Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said. "It's vitally important that we learn and follow the rules of the road to ensure that our new line will be one of the best ones yet."

Metro has contracted with the Sheriff's Department to provide security on the alignment and at stations 24-hour a day. Trespassing on the transitway is strictly prohibited and offenders may be cited up to \$500. Sheriff's Department enforcement will include motor, cruiser and horse-mounted patrols.

The transit agency has also worked closely with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to construct transitway intersections with all necessary street infrastructure to enable motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians to interact safely with 60-foot, 24-ton articulated Metro Liner Buses as they cross through 36 Valley intersections between North Hollywood and Woodland Hills.

To facilitate a more efficient flow of bus and vehicular traffic through intersections, Metro Liners, like Metro Rapids, will employ a signal priority system that enables buses to communicate with LADOT-installed traffic signals. As the buses approach intersections, on-board transponders communicate with the traffic signals to shorten the duration of red lights and lengthen green lights. While the signal priority system allows buses to improve upon travel times, buses will nevertheless stop at red lights with the rest of traffic when required. Buses will automatically stop at 13 Metro Orange Line stations to pick up and drop off patrons.

To help ensure safe crossings at intersections, all Metro Orange Line intersections come equipped with traffic signals for each direction of travel. Arrow signals, for example, provide the exact direction motorists should proceed.

The middle of many street intersections have clearly marked "Keep Clear" zones intended to keep motorists from blocking the intersection.

Motorists are advised to stay behind the double white lines until there is enough room and time for them to clear the intersection and get to the other side. Turning on a red or yellow light at these intersections is strictly prohibited to prevent motorists from placing their vehicle in the path of an approaching bus.

To guard motorists from accidentally driving onto the transitway, "Do Not Enter" signs and other directional signs have been installed on both sides of busway entrances. Signs are complemented with flashing electronic "Bus Coming" signs when buses approach the intersection.

Each intersection contains crosswalks to allow pedestrians and bicyclists to safely access stations. Patrons should never jaywalk to reach station platforms or run to catch a bus. If patrons miss their bus, station electronic message boards will display the next bus' arrival. Wait times between buses during morning and afternoon rush hour periods should not exceed every six minutes.

Metro has also constructed four signalized pedestrian crossings to help members of the community access the other side of the transitway. Pedestrians should obey the Walk/Don't Walk signals just as they would at any other signalized intersection and look for buses traveling in both directions before crossing.

Pedestrians and bicyclists should exercise caution at intersections where Metro has installed soundwalls near residences as visibility to approaching buses may be limited. Pedestrians and bike riders should always stop and look both ways near these soundwalls.

A host of other security measures also have been installed on the Metro Orange Line. All stations are well-lit and are equipped with closed circuit television surveillance cameras at both ends of the station which are monitored 24 hours per day by Metro's Bus Operations Center (BOC) in Downtown Los Angeles. Patrons may utilize the passenger assistance telephone to directly contact a live operator at the BOC to report safety or security concerns. The BOC operator can make special safety and security announcements to all station patrons on a public address system. Patrons may also use public telephones installed at each station.

"Raising the public's awareness about the safety features in and around the Orange Line will help to ensure the safety of motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and bus passengers," said Councilmember Wendy Greuel. "Metro and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation have taken extreme care to develop and post signage all along the Metro Orange Line to alert the public to safety hazards, and I applaud them for making safety awareness a priority for our community."

As Chair of the City Council's Transportation committee, Councilmember Greuel introduced a motion last week asking the city's Department of Transportation to work with Metro and LAPD's Traffic Division to report to the City Council all of the safety measures put in place around the Metro Orange Line, and to report back every 30 days on any safety issues that arise after the grand opening of the transitway.

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