



January 19, 2006 > UPDATE: Feb. 7, 2006

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Metro to Introduce New Express Service on Metro Gold Line
Beginning Feb. 13**

- Metro Rail's first Express service to shave five minutes off Metro Gold Line commute, a 15 percent savings

Beginning Monday, February 13, Metro will launch Express service on the Los Angeles to Pasadena Metro Gold Line that will shorten end-to-end rush-hour travel times from 34 minutes to just 29 minutes, a 15 percent time savings for weekday commuters.

The new service, the first of its kind on the 73-mile Metro Rail System, will stop at five of 13 Metro Gold Line stations: Union Station, Highland Park, Mission, Del Mar and Sierra Madre Villa. Station stops were chosen based on a number of factors including passenger boardings, parking availability and business development.

Weekday-only Express service will consist of six trains running every half hour in both directions during the morning and afternoon rush hour periods. Express trains will supplement Metro's existing non peak-hour train service running every 15 minutes during these times. No additional fares will be required to utilize Express service.

"The new trend at Metro is faster service," said Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who is also Chairman of the Metro Board. "With the addition of Express service providing increased time savings, the Metro Gold Line gives LA commuters another good reason to use public transit."

"This action provides peak-hour commuters a reliable transit option from Sierra Madre Villa station to downtown Los Angeles in under a half hour," said Mike Antonovich, Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Member who requested the new service be implemented. "As ridership increases, support will grow for the Metro Gold Line extension to Claremont and the Ontario Airport."

Heading Northbound from Union Station to Sierra Madre Villa, trains are currently scheduled to operate every half hour from 5:35 a.m. to 8:05 a.m. and 3:50 p.m. to 6:20 p.m. Southbound trains starting at Sierra Madre Villa to Union Station will also run every half hour from 6:05 a.m. to 8:35 a.m. and 3:50 p.m. to 6:20 p.m. Express train schedules are coordinated with the Metro Red Line at Union Station to facilitate interline connections.

Commuters who miss their Express trains will still be able to catch a regularly scheduled train within a few minutes during the peak-hour periods of 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Alternately, passengers who board the wrong train can ride to another station and catch a regular train back to their station.

"I anticipate ridership on the Metro Gold Line will be even stronger when commuters discover they can now get between Pasadena and Downtown LA in under half an hour," said Roger Snoble, Metro CEO. "At Metro, we are pulling out the stops to provide faster commutes for our transit patrons, and Express service on the Metro Gold Line is just the most recent example. Metro Express Lines, Metro Rapids and the Metro Orange Line are all achieving substantial transit time reductions across the county."

Last year, Metro introduced Metro Express Lines 577X and 550X, which utilize freeway high-occupancy vehicle lanes to slash commute times in the South Bay, San Gabriel Valley and Long Beach areas. Five-minute peak-hour service on the Metro Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley now takes commuters between Woodland Hills and North Hollywood in about 41 minutes, a substantial time savings that compares favorably with driving on the 101 freeway during rush hour. Metro Rapids – 25 percent faster than Local Buses – now travel on 15 high-traffic corridors in L.A. County, with four additional lines planned by this summer.

Commuters seeking to utilize the Metro Gold Line Express trains can park at five of its station stops. Union Station contains 2,000 paid parking spaces. Highland Park contains 140 metered parking spaces. A new parking structure at the Mission Meridian Transit Village in South Pasadena will provide 140 free spaces. Del Mar Station has 600 paid spaces, and Sierra Madre Villa Station has 850 free and 100 reserved parking spaces.

Those seeking to connect by bus to the stations can utilize the following bus lines:

Union Station: Metro Bus Line 33, 333, 40,740, 42, 439, 444, 445, 446, 745, Commuter Express: Metrolink Shuttle, 430, 534, Dash "D", Foothill Transit 699, Santa Monica Municipal 10, Santa Clarita 794, Antelope Valley 785, Orange County Transit 701. Nearby connecting lines are: Metro Bus Line 70, 71, 78, 370, 79, 378, 68, 368, 304, 484, 485, 487, 490, 489, Foothill Transit lines 480, 481,482, 486, 488, 492, 494, 498, 499, 493, 497, Dash route Lincoln Heights China Town.

Highland Park: Metro Bus Line 81, 83, 176, 256, DASH Highland Park/Eagle Rock.

Mission: Metro Bus Line 177, 256, 686, 687, ARTS 20, 51/52.

Del Mar: Metro Bus Line 256, 267, 260/361, ARTS 20, 40, 51/52, Foothill Transit 187. Nearby connecting lines are Metro 180/181, 687, 780, ARTS 10, LADOT 549, Foothill Transit 690.

Sierra Madre Villa: Metro Bus Line 177, 181, 266, ARTS 31/32, 40, 60, Foothill Transit 187, Montebello Transit 20, Sierra Madre Commuter Loop. Nearby connecting lines are Metro 264, 267, 268.

Metro will initiate a number of steps to help patrons identify Express trains and station stops. Trains themselves will be designated by "Express" headsigns on both ends of the trains and on the sides. The inside dash of the train also will contain Express placards. On board, Express service announcements will be made by train operators. The train's automated announcement system will also advise patrons of approaching stops.

At stations, banners will be installed to inform patrons of the new Express service. As an additional safety precaution, Metro will paint yellow lines on platforms to remind patrons at the by-passed stations to keep away from the platform edge when Express trains pass through.

Agency ambassadors also will be stationed at all Metro Gold Line stations for the first week of Express service to help the public with questions and

hand out pamphlets.

Metro's Community Relations Department has developed a comprehensive outreach program for raising awareness for the new Express service in communities along the Metro Gold Line alignment. Efforts include briefings with local officials and presentations at Chinatown, South Pasadena and Pasadena City Council meetings and Chambers of Commerce. Informational brochures will be made available in three languages and in Braille, and will be distributed on train seats and at local school districts and community centers.

For a timetable of Metro Gold Line Express service, visit www.metro.net or call 1-800-COMMUTE.

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