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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New High-capacity Buses Now Running on Metro Rapid Line 720

- New, accordian-style buses help relieve standing loads on one of L.A. County's busiest transit corridors

Placing high-capacity buses where they're needed most, Metro is now phasing in new 60-foot articulated buses onto Metro Rapid Line 720, the agency's first and most successful Metro Rapid Line that runs along heavily congested Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles.

The new buses are articulated, consisting of two passenger-carrying sections that bend in the middle like an accordian. With room for 57 seated passengers, these extra-long buses will provide 43 percent more seating capacity than Metro's standard 40-passenger, 40-foot buses.

By the end of July, all buses running on this line will be articulated. During peak morning and afternoon periods, a total of 78 articulated buses will operate on the line.

"Metro's introduction of articulated buses on Metro Rapid Line 720 will provide immediate relief to the more than 40,000 riders who commute daily along this heavily congested urban corridor," said Roger Snoble, Metro CEO. "These higher capacity buses will help alleviate standing the loads we typically see on this line, a service improvement that our customers will surely appreciate."

Metro also plans to extend all Metro Rapid Line 720 buses the entire length of the bus route by the end of June. Some buses are now scheduled to stop in Westwood and in Downtown Los Angeles. This change will ensure that all riders will be able to get to their destinations no matter what bus they take.

The popular Metro Rapids have succeeded in reducing passenger commute times an average of 25 percent as the result of their signal priority system developed by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), less frequent stops, and the low floor design that allows for faster and easier boarding and alighting. Metro currently operates 15 Metro Rapid lines, and plans to operate 28 lines in Los Angeles County by 2008.

Metro has placed articulated buses on several of its bus services, including the Metro Orange Line, Metro Rapid Line 757 (Western) and Metro Rapid Line 754 (Vermont).

Metro Rapid Line 720 provides access to the communities of Commerce, downtown and midtown Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Westwood and Santa Monica.

For more information, visit METRO.NET or call 1-800-COMMUTE.

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