



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro



Metro Purple Line Extension **NEWS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Major Station Construction for L.A. Subway

Metro To Close Portion of Wilshire Boulevard in the Miracle Mile for 22 Consecutive Weekends to Conduct Major Decking Operation for Purple Line Extension Project

In the latest L.A. County transit construction milestone, Metro is ready to begin building the Wilshire/La Brea underground station for the Metro Purple Line Extension Project. Beginning Friday night, June 10, portions of Wilshire Boulevard in the Miracle Mile area of Los Angeles will be closed during 22 consecutive weekends for a street decking operation. Residents and motorists are advised to plan ahead, follow street detours and allow extra time to get through the area.

Metro's contractor Skanska, Traylor and Shea, a Joint Venture (STS) will excavate a portion of Wilshire Boulevard and replace it with concrete deck panels that will act as a temporary street surface while underground station excavation continues below. No decking work will be conducted during the regular work week or during the Fourth of July or Labor Day weekends. The work is part of Metro's first major station construction for the \$6.3 billion subway project that will extend the Metro Purple Line further west.

"Metro continues to transform transportation in L.A. County, and we're now ready to begin building the first of three subway stations that will provide more Angelenos with fast, frequent, high-capacity transit service along Wilshire Boulevard – one of our region's most congested corridors," said Mark Ridley-Thomas, L.A. County Supervisor and Metro Board Chair. "We have planned this operation to be as least invasive as possible, and we ask for the public's patience as we continue building a world-class transportation system for our county."

The 22-weekend closure schedule will consist of three separate decking phases at Wilshire/La Brea. The first phase will comprise three weekend closures from Detroit Street to La Brea Avenue. The second phase will include three weekends at the La Brea intersection. The third and biggest phase will comprise 16 consecutive weekend closures from La Brea Avenue to Highland Avenue. Local access for businesses and residents will be maintained. Sidewalk access will be maintained with intermittent closures.

During each weekend, Wilshire Boulevard will be closed beginning 8 p.m. Friday evening and reopen by 6 a.m. Monday morning. Each phase of decking will have a different set of traffic plans, detour routes, and mitigations. Once complete, the concrete decking will allow traffic to continue to flow on the street while station construction occurs below ground.

To help motorists travel through the closure area, changeable message signs will alert motorists of detours in advance. Additionally, traffic control officers will be placed at intersections to help direct motorists.

The schedule of closures and detour routes are as follows:

Phase 1: Wilshire Boulevard, between Detroit Street and La Brea Avenue, will be closed for approximately three weekends. Wilshire Boulevard will be also reduced to one lane in each direction from Detroit Street to Highland Avenue on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Westbound Detour: Northbound La Brea Avenue to Westbound 6th St. to Southbound Fairfax Avenue to Westbound Wilshire Boulevard. Eastbound Detour: Northbound Fairfax Avenue to Eastbound 6th St. to Southbound La Brea Avenue to Eastbound Wilshire Boulevard.

Phase 2: The Wilshire/La Brea Avenue Intersection will be closed for approximately three weekends. Wilshire Boulevard, between Detroit Street and Highland Avenue, will also be reduced to one lane in each direction on Fridays from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Westbound Wilshire Detour: Wilshire Boulevard to northbound Highland Avenue to westbound 6th Street to southbound Fairfax Avenue to westbound Wilshire Boulevard. Eastbound Wilshire Detour: Eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to northbound Fairfax Avenue to eastbound 6th Street to southbound Highland Avenue to eastbound Wilshire.

Phase 3: Wilshire Boulevard, between La Brea Avenue and Highland Avenue, will be closed for approximately 16 weekends. Wilshire Boulevard from La Brea Avenue to Highland Avenue will also be reduced to one lane in each direction on Fridays from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Eastbound Detour: Northbound La Brea Avenue to Eastbound 6th Street to Southbound Highland Avenue to Eastbound Wilshire Boulevard. Westbound Detour: Northbound Highland Avenue to Westbound 6th Street to Southbound La Brea Avenue to Westbound Wilshire Boulevard.

The contractor will also conduct other work activities for the subway during the weekend closures to work as efficiently as possible.

Metro's schedule of 22 weekend-only closures is supported by residents and businesses in the Miracle Mile area following Metro's extensive community input process. More than 100 area meetings were held to guide community stakeholders through the upcoming operation.

The first section of the Metro Purple Line Extension Project now under construction will add nearly four miles of subway from the Wilshire/Western Purple Line Station west to Wilshire/La Cienega and include three new stations at Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire/La Cienega. Construction of the first subway section began in early 2015. The first section is scheduled to be operational in 2023. Two subsequent sections are also planned that will add four more stations ultimately extending the subway to Westwood/VA Hospital by 2035 under current funding scenarios. Metro is pursuing alternate funding sources to accelerate this construction.

For questions or concerns related to this work or any Purple Line Extension construction activity, the public can call Metro's 24/7 project hotline at (213) 922-6934. Alternately, they can email the project team at purplelineext@metro.net.

For more information about the Metro Purple Line Extension Project, visit metro.net/purplelineext.

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About Metro

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is unique among the nation's transportation agencies. The agency was created in 1993 through the merger of an existing transit agency and transportation commission. It serves as regional transportation planner and coordinator, designer, builder, funder and operator for one of the country's largest, most populous counties. More than 9.6 million people – nearly one-third of California's residents – live, work, and play within its 1,433-square-mile service area.

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