

L.A. Metro's Ridership Grew 8.2 Percent in July Marking the 20th Consecutive Month of Year-Over-Year Growth

Tracy Smith August 23, 2024

Weekday Summer Events Drove Leisure Ridership

L.A. Metro had 25,466,384 boardings in July on its bus and rail services, reaching 81.84 percent of its July 2019 pre-COVID ridership level and marking the 20th consecutive month of year-over-year ridership growth. The agency saw 19,873,436 boardings on weekdays, reaching 78.8 percent of its pre-pandemic July 2019 level. On weekends in July there were 5,592,948 boardings, reaching 95.3 percent of pre-pandemic weekend ridership from July 2019.

Bus Ridership

Bus ridership in July saw 19,676,497 rides taken for a 9.84 percent year-over-year ridership increase compared to July 2023 ridership and reached 82.9 percent of its July 2019 level. Metro recorded 15,455,726 bus boardings on weekdays in July. Saturdays saw 2,069,496 boardings and Sundays had 2,151,275 boardings in July. Weekend bus ridership is now at 93.16 percent of its pre-pandemic level.

Rail Ridership

In July, rail boardings were 5,789,887, reflecting a gain of 3.23 percent over July 2023 ridership and a 78.4 percent recovery of July 2019 rail ridership. Weekday rail boardings were 4,417,710 trips taken, reflecting 73.4 percent of weekday rail boardings in July 2019. July marks the first full month of year-over-year comparison on the A and E lines, and ridership grew 16.76 percent over July 2023. Individually, the A Line grew 19.46 percent when compared to ridership in July 2023 and the E Line grew 13.17 percent year-over-year. The busiest rail line in July was the B Line with 1,898,643 boardings. The A Line saw 1,871,941 trips taken.

Leisure Ridership

Leisure travelers rode Metro to concerts, festivals and sporting events. July 2024 had more weekday events, which were a driver of overall ridership growth during the month with weekday bus ridership up 7.37 percent and weekday rail ridership up 2.62 percent. Events at venues with direct Metro rail access such as Expo Park off the E Line, LA Historic State Park off the A Line, and Dodgers Stadium serviced by the Dodger

Stadium Express bus from LA Union Station all saw ridership increases.

July events that contributed to ridership increases include the July 4th firework event at Gloria Molina Grand Park, multi-day events Anime Expo, KCON, and Rupaul's DragCon, which took place downtown at the Convention Center and crypto.com Arena, plus sporting events with the L.A. Sparks, Dodgers, and LAFC and Angel City FC games at crypto.com Arena, Dodger Stadium and BMO Stadium, respectively.

Fare Programs

Metro continues to provide programs that make riding more affordable for everyone. The agency's reduced-price transit pass programs, such as the student GoPass program, which offers free transit passes to K-12 and community college students, and its Low-Income Fare is Easy (LIFE) program, which provides free rides and reduced fares to low-income customers, are helping those who need it most.

In July, Metro's GoPass Program had 479,309 boardings, a 19 percent year-over-year increase over July 2023, which saw 395,385 boardings. GoPass also had 21,198 new registrations and renewals combined for a 78 percent year-over-year increase in July enrollment. GoPass has now surpassed 40 million student boardings and more than 400,000 registered students using the free fare student GoPass for unlimited travel to school, work and leisure activities.

LIFE Program enrollment is up 12 percent year-over-year in July 2024 with 1,729,227 boardings compared to 1,541,755 in July 2023. During July, the LIFE team held more than 75 in-person enrollment events to sign eligible people up for the reduced fare program. In July, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) a LIFE partner had 1,289 enrollments into Metro's LIFE program.

Information on all Metro's reduced fare programs, including discounts for seniors, persons with disabilities, and students, can be found at: metro.net/riding/fares/

Public Safety on Metro

In July, the Metro Board of Directors approved a Station Experience package of safety and security upgrades that include: a new pilot program that would create taller fare gates at up to three rail stations to deter gate jumping; expansion of the TAP-to-exit program that requires riders to tap fare cards to enter and exit (charged only once) to all 10 end-of-line stations to discourage fare evasion; expansion of the Elevator Open-Door pilot from 21 elevators to 57 elevators which leaves the doors open until called upon and dissuades non-transit elevator use; expansion of the Smart Restroom pilot from 10 stations to 64 stations and transit centers; and a new pilot program to test two weapons detection technologies at two transit hubs on the rail system.

Metro continues to increase its work to improve public safety with a three-point plan:

- **Keep our employees and customers safe and ensure they feel safe** through an increased visible presence of uniformed personnel, station improvements and improved bus safety measures;
- **Ensure the system is being used only for its intended purpose of transit**

through fare gate improvements and removal of trespassers; and

- **Continue to partner with the County, the Cities and Regional Agencies to address societal issues** such as homelessness, untreated mental illness, drug addiction.

As part of this strategy, Metro's law enforcement partners have expanded their visible presence on the rail system, and more Transit Security Officers (TSOs) have been added to enforce Metro's Customer Code of Conduct rules on both the bus and rail system. As part of the MTS surge, Metro Transit Security Bus Safety Teams (BSTs) performed end-of-line operations during late-night "Owl" service on some of the busiest bus lines. Metro Ambassadors are also out in force on Metro's six rail lines and five of the busiest bus lines, to provide support to customers and keep a watchful eye out for problems.

About Metro

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is building the most ambitious transportation infrastructure program in the United States and is working to greatly improve mobility through its Vision 2028 Plan. Metro is the lead transportation planning and funding agency for L.A. County and carries nearly a million boardings daily on four light rail and two subway lines and 119 bus lines utilizing more than 2,000 low-emission buses.

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