

MTA Targets Overcrowding, Adds 61 Buses Into Peak Service

(December 1) The MTA will add 61 buses into peak service throughout Los Angeles County on Sunday, December 5, the second of two major infusions of service into the Metro Bus System this year. The added buses are aimed at reducing the number of standees on Metro Buses to no more than 11, the threshold the MTA agreed to meet by June 30, 2000, under a federal court consent decree to reduce overcrowding on Metro Bus lines.

While the new schedules go into effect Sunday, most of the service changes will take place on Monday, December 6.

Sunday's service addition brings the total number of buses added into peak service this year to 166. In June, the MTA added 66 buses on the Metro Bus System's 20 busiest lines. Earlier in the year, the MTA phased 31 buses into peak service, and in September, seven buses were added into peak service on contracted lines.

The MTA and a coalition of community organizations, including the Bus Riders Union, entered into the Consent Decree in October 1996. The agreement called for a scheduled reduction in the number of standees on Metro Buses through the addition of service.

The MTA agreed to reduce the number of standees to no more than 15 by December 31, 1997, 11 by June 30, 2000, and nine by June 30, 2002.

Sunday's service addition allows the MTA sufficient time to make adjustments in service, if needed, to reach the June 2000 milestone.

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