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Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa asked Los Angeles commuters to join him in his "Ride with the Mayor" program by using the new Metro Gold Line express service and other forms of mass transit. Joining the mayor at the kickoff of the express service were, from left, LA City Councilman Ed Reyes, Metro Director David Fleming, Deputy CEO John Catoe, Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Director John Fasana and CEO Roger Snoble.



Mayor Leads VIPs in Demonstration of New Gold Line Express Service

By JIMMY STROUP

(Feb. 9, 2006) Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and several Metro Board members were among the first invited to try out the new express service on the Metro Gold Line, Thursday, during a demonstration ride to the Sierra Madre Villa station.

The express service, which starts regular service on Feb. 13, will depart every half hour in morning and evening rush periods. Instead of stopping at all 13 stops on the Gold Line's route, the new service stops at only five, shortening travel from end to end by five minutes.

Photos by Bill Heard



Commuters arriving at Union Station pass under a banner promoting the Metro Gold Line's new express service.

"Now, although we already have great service between the San Gabriel Valley and Downtown Los Angeles, we want to do something to make that service even better," Villaraigosa said during a morning news conference at Union Station. "[The express service] will zip passengers between the Sierra Madre Villa station and Pasadena and Union Station in less than 30 minutes."

Normally, it takes 34 minutes to ride the Gold Line between Union Station and Sierra Madre Villa. The new service, though, reduces that time to 29 minutes—a 15 percent reduction.

Express trains won't interfere

Trains will be marked with "Express" on the headsigns and on placards on the dash, making them easily distinguished from trains running the full route. The express trains won't interfere with or slow down the trains running the full route, either.

Director John Fasana said the express service would help people make the best use of their time, as well as reduce automobile emissions and traffic congestion. Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Metro Council Member Ed Reyes and Director David Fleming also spoke supporting the new, timesaving service.



Operator Glenda Murrell prepares to take VIPs assembled for the kickoff of the new Metro Gold Line express service on a demonstration ride departing from Union Station.

"You can be much more efficient in your daily commute by taking advantage of the new Metro express service on the Gold Line," Fasana said. "It'll shave a few minutes off your [travel] time, add relaxation to your trip and make you more productive in the workplace, as well."



CEO Roger Snoble said the new Metro Gold Line express service is the latest example of Metro's expanding network of Metro Rapid lines, Metro Express and other commuter services.

CEO Roger Snoble echoed these sentiments, citing Metro's introduction of freeway express lines, Metro Rapid lines and the Metro Orange Line as examples of the dedication to improving transit wherever it can.

"Metro Gold Line express service is the most recent example of how Metro is working to achieve substantial transit time reductions across LA County," he said.

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