

Catching an early bird Expo Line ride

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This is only a test—but not for long. As the [Exposition Light Rail Line](#) rolls closer to becoming a reality for Los Angeles transit customers, operators are now trying out the trains daily on portions of the new route. (Details on the test runs—from Flower and 23rd Street to La Cienega and Jefferson Boulevard—are [here](#), along with safety tips.)

Supervisor and Metro Board Member Zev Yaroslavsky recently hopped aboard one of the test runs. The view from the train made it clear, he said, that getting from Point A to Point B will be only part of the Expo Line's journey. As new routes connect with existing lines, entire regions of Los Angeles County are becoming accessible via public transit.

"Every one of these lines is another tipping point," Yaroslavsky said.

All the test runs are a prelude to opening the first leg of the line early next year. Initially, trains are expected to run from the 7th Street Metro Center downtown to La Cienega and Jefferson. Meanwhile, construction is continuing on Phase 1's westernmost station in Culver City.

This [interactive map](#) provides a preview of some of the cultural attractions, employment centers and educational institutions along Phase 1 of the route—including USC, the Natural History Museum, the California Science Center, the California African-American Museum and the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Eventually, Expo Phase 2 will extend all the way to 4th Street and Colorado Avenue in Santa Monica. [Ground was broken](#) on that phase a couple months ago. When complete, the 15.2-mile line will be the first mass transit rail project on the Westside since the Red Cars.

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