



Metro News

VERMONT-BROADWAY METRO RAPID OPENING DAY NEARS



Other stories:

- Metro Rapid rapidly expanding
- Holiday free rides offered
- Hours extended for bikes on trains
- Industry, show biz turn out to support new Metro Rail hours

MTA BOARD APPROVES RAPID EXPANSION OF METRO RAPID

The MTA Board has approved an accelerated plan to expand Metro Rapid lines to 24 new transit corridors by 2008.

Instead of completing the expansion in 11 years, as originally proposed, the lines will be up and running in only five years.

“Basically we’re cutting the time in half, which is a very, very aggressive plan,” said MTA Project Manager Rex Gephart.

Van Nuys, Crenshaw, Santa Monica, Long Beach, Manchester and Beverly boulevards, San Fernando Road-Lankershim Boulevard, and Western Avenue are among the streets that will be served by Metro Rapid, joining the existing 16-mile line on Ventura Boulevard and 26-mile line on Wilshire/Whittier boulevards.

When complete, Metro Rapid buses will cover an additional 360 miles through 34 cities, 11 unincorporated Los Angeles County communities and stop at 779 stations. ■

FREE RIDES OFFERED ON EVE OF HOLIDAYS

On Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve free rides will be offered from 9 p.m. until closing, generally around 1 a.m., on the Metro Rail system, and from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. on the Metro Bus system.

“It’s our way of thanking the public for their year-round patronage of Metro and to make sure everyone enjoys end-of-year festivities safely,” said MTA Board Chairman and Los Angeles City Council Member Hal Bernson. ■

ENTERTAINERS AND MERCHANTS HELP MTA LAUNCH NEW RAIL HOURS

Representatives from the world of business and entertainment located near Metro Rail stations recently joined MTA officials to announce expanded nighttime service.

Up to one extra hour in late night service will benefit tourists, residents, attendees of sports and entertainment events and evening workers who no longer need to worry about missing the train.

Lending their support for the event were: The Hollywood Palace and AFI (American Film Institute - Hollywood/Vine Station); Crystal Park Casino (Artesia Station); Hollywood Renaissance Hotel and The Highlands (Hollywood/Highland Station); Queen Mary (Long Beach Transit Mall); NASCAR Silicon Motor Speedway, Jillian’s Hi-Life Lanes and Wolfgang Puck’s (Universal City Station); Olvera Street (Union Station); Southwest Airlines (Aviation Station); Kaiser Permanente and Verde Restaurant (Vermont/Sunset Station); BodyImage LA, Diablo’s Chili Inferno, Interact Theater and “An Evening Out” (North Hollywood Station); and LA City Cultural Affairs Department (Civic Center/Tom Bradley Station).

For specific trip information, call 1.800.COMMUTE or visit MTA’s website at www.mta.net ■

MTA Board Member Allison Yoh, at podium with Hollywood Chamber of Commerce President Leron Gubler (to her left), Robin Cohen of Interact Theater and MTA Deputy CEO John Catoe, announces new Metro Rail hours.



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Metro Rail Hours Extended For Bikes

Passengers can now bring bicycles aboard Metro Rail trains for longer durations.

Passengers can take bicycles on trains at the beginning and end of peak hour periods and at all other times. In addition, permits are no longer required.

The changes were made to encourage the use of bicycles as a transportation option in combination with public transit.

On weekdays, bikes are allowed on Metro Rail trains except for the following times: In the morning, 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., on Metro Blue Line, Long Beach to 7th/Metro; Metro Green Line, Norwalk to Marine; Metro Red Line, between Union Station and Wilshire/Vermont (both directions). In the afternoon, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., on Metro Blue Line, 7th/ Metro to Long Beach; Metro Green Line,



MTA Market Research Manager Jesse Simon is enjoying the new, more flexible Metro Rail bicycle policy.

Marine to Norwalk; Metro Red Line, between Union Station and Wilshire/Vermont (both directions). There are no restrictions on weekends and holidays. ■

METRO RAPID TO OPEN ON VERMONT - BROADWAY

Metro Rapid, red-and-white buses that deliver passengers approximately 25% faster than regular Metro Buses, will begin operating on Vermont Avenue and South Broadway December 15.

Metro Rapid buses make fewer stops than regular Metro Buses, have on-board transponders that extend green traffic lights and low floors which make for easier and quicker boarding and alighting.

The Vermont Metro Rapid Line 754 will run between the Vermont/105 Metro Rail station and the Vermont/Sunset Metro Rail station. The South Broadway Metro Rapid Line 745 will run 11 miles between the Harbor Freeway Metro Rail Station at the 110/105 interchange and Patsaouras Transit Plaza by Union Station.

Metro Rapid replaces limited stop service; however, local service will still be offered. ■

The Vermont Metro Rapid Line 754, opening Dec. 15, will travel across Wilshire Boulevard and serve one of the busiest transit corridors in LA County.

