



# Metro News

## **BIG BUSES ON THE WAY** Extra length equals extra seats



### **Other stories:**

- **Three more service sectors open**
- **WNBA star tips off safety campaign**
- **Regional EZpass makes magical debut**
- **1-800-COMMUTE wait plunges**



*Los Angeles Sparks superstar Lisa Leslie is leading the fast break for safety campaign.*

## **MVP LISA LESLIE 'SPARKS' NEW SAFETY CAMPAIGN**

Basketball superstar Lisa Leslie of the WNBA world champion Los Angeles Sparks helped kick off the “Look, Listen & Live” safety campaign that reminds children not to play on train tracks or around buses.

“I’m very proud to be able to serve as a role model for kids and the community,” said Leslie at her Inglewood alma mater, Morningside High School.

“Safety is a top priority for MTA and we’re excited about working together with the LA Sparks and municipal bus operators,” said MTA Board Chairman Hal Bernson.

MTA’s Safety Outreach program, with a big assist by the Sparks, has delivered the rail safety message to more than 60,000 persons through Metro Rail tours, school assemblies and public events.

Get the message by contacting Safety Outreach at 213-620-RAIL. ■

# WAIT TIME FOR INFORMATION SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

MTA's 98-member Metro Customer Information group has reduced the average wait time for customers from five minutes to two minutes. The 1-800-COMMUTE agents handle some 8,000 to 9,000 calls a day.

The best times to call 1-800-COMMUTE and spend less time waiting are:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Weekdays</b> | Before 8 a.m.<br>Between 12:30<br>and 3 p.m. |
| <b>Weekends</b> | Between 1:30<br>and 4:30 p.m.                |

Or anytime at: [www.mta.net](http://www.mta.net) ■

# ALL SERVICE SECTORS NOW OPEN

All five community-based transit service sectors are in place and conducting community meetings to determine how Metro service can be improved.

Metro Westside/Central covers downtown and the western portion of Los Angeles County. Metro South Bay covers an area from South Central Los Angeles to San Pedro, and Metro Gateway Cities is responsible for cities in Southeastern Los Angeles County. The three service sectors opened September 1.

Metro service sectors in the San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys opened July 1.

The sector approach to managing transit services is designed to improve bus service, reliability and customer satisfaction. ■

# Presto! Universal Fare System Off to Magical Start

A wave of the wand and a shower of confetti marked the arrival of seamless transit service in Los Angeles County.

The Regional EZpass, the county's first regional pass program, allows unlimited travel on the Metro Bus and Metro Rail systems and on the fixed route systems of 12 municipal bus operators, eliminating the need to carry extra cash or purchase additional transit passes.

Commemorating the occasion at MTA headquarters were representatives from all participating transit agencies.

The Regional EZpass is priced at \$58 for a regular monthly pass, \$29 for seniors, and \$29 for disabled/Medicare. There is a surcharge for express bus service. ■

*Officials from MTA and municipal operators celebrate first regional transit pass.*



## JUMBO BUSES GOING TO HIGH RIDERSHIP LINES

MTA is purchasing larger buses with more seating capacity.

The buses will begin rolling next summer with the arrival of 30 45-foot compressed natural gas (CNG)-powered coaches, each with seating for 47 passengers.

The MTA Board early next year is expected to award contracts for up to 272 60-foot buses, each with seating for 60 passengers. The buses will be deployed to new Metro Rapid lines and other high ridership lines, including the planned 14-mile transitway linking Warner Center with the North Hollywood Metro Rail station. ■

*Artist's rendition of 60-foot bus*

