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# Metro News

## Rail Safety Message Gets Hollywood Treatment

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MTA's high-tech mobile theater is centerpiece of rail safety efforts.

## Rail Safety Message Gets Hollywood Treatment

In an effort to make life aboard and near Metro Rail as safe as possible, MTA has recruited a high-tech mobile theater to serve as a teacher.

Presentations will be offered to schools, shopping centers and other locations near Metro Rail stations starting early this year. Initially it will serve as a safety classroom for children and adults who live nearby and ride the Los Angeles-Pasadena Metro Gold Line, set to open in mid-2003.

The theater will feature 2- and 3-dimensional video and DVD presentations, a climate control system that simulates wind and other atmospheric conditions, vibrating stadium seats and movie theater quality sound, which will simulate train rides. [MN](#)

## Metro Rail Trains Become More Spacious

To add more seating capacity and ease boarding and exiting, MTA has added train cars to the Metro Blue Line and the Metro Red Line on weekends.

The Metro Blue Line will run all three-car trains between 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., instead of a mix of two- and three-car trains, while Metro Red Line trains will pull two cars from Union Station in downtown to Wilshire/Western between 9:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. [MN](#)



Cameras are making travel on Metro Buses safer.

## Metro Bus Security Cameras Deter Crime

The presence of security cameras on more than 1,300 Metro Buses has contributed to a downward trend in reported crimes.

"Crime has definitely been going down since the cameras were introduced in 1998," said Richard Hunt, MTA deputy executive officer, vehicle technology.

With more than 2,000 Metro Buses expected to be equipped with the digital image cameras within two years, the crime rate should continue to fall.

"The cameras are there for the safety and security of both passengers and operators," said Hunt. "If a crime takes place, the images will definitely help in the prosecution and conviction of suspects." [MN](#)



## MTA and OCTA Honor Each Other's Bus Pass

Passengers who transfer to and from select Metro Bus and Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) lines now only have to use one monthly pass.

"This is another step in moving the region closer to seamless public transit for our customers," said Roger Snoble, MTA CEO.

Each agency's monthly pass can be used on Metro Bus lines 130, 275, 362, 460, 490 and 471 and on OCTA bus lines 1, 30, 38, 42, 46, 50, 60, 701, 721 and 757.

There is an additional charge for express service. [MN](#)

## North-South Valley Transitway Studied

New Metro Rapid lines planned for the San Fernando Valley will make future travel there faster and more convenient than conventional bus service.

The MTA Board early this year will pick the route for a new north-south Metro Rapid line. It will connect with two east-west Metro Rapid projects: Line 750, which today connects the Universal City Metro Rail Station and Warner Center via Ventura Boulevard, and a new Metro Rapid transitway that will link the North Hollywood Metro Rail station and the West San Fernando Valley in 2005.

The new north-south Metro Rapid service could be in place as early as late 2006. [MN](#)

## MTA Salutes Legendary Lakers Announcer

MTA is changing the name of the Pico Metro Rail Station to the Pico/Chick Hearn Metro Rail Station in honor of the legendary Los Angeles Lakers announcer who passed away last summer.

Staples Center is within easy walking distance of the Pico/Chick Hearn Metro Rail Station. Taking the train to games has been made even more convenient by the introduction of longer late night Metro Rail service. [MN](#)



Bus-only lanes will make Metro Rapid trips even faster.

## Metro Rapid Wilshire/Whittier Line Upgrades Will Improve Service

When completed in 2005, new Metro Rapid transitway upgrades on Wilshire and Whittier boulevards will result in an additional 25% savings in travel time compared to local bus service.

Wilshire/Whittier Metro Rapid transitway improvements, beginning in 2003, will include longer buses with more seating room, additional signal priority and reconstructed curb lanes to provide smoother rides.

New fare vending and security equipment will be installed and new station shelters will allow for multiple-door boarding and disembarking.

Testing of an initial peak-hour bus-only lane between Centinela and Federal avenues in West Los Angeles may begin as early as this spring. [MN](#)

