

Metro News

Metro Rapid line to be upgraded

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Metro[™]



Metro Rapid will grow into a seven line, 115-mile network when this unique brand of fast and frequent service opens on Crenshaw Boulevard on February 2.

Wilshire Metro Rapid Buses To Travel In Exclusive Lane

The highly successful Metro Rapid Line 720, which runs on Wilshire and Whittier boulevards between Santa Monica and Commerce, will become even faster beginning this spring.

Upgrades will include testing of a one-mile buses-only transit lane on Wilshire Boulevard between Federal and Centinela avenues during peak traffic hours, 7 to 9 am and 4 to 7 pm, resulting in even more time savings.

A bus signal priority system, which switches red lights to green a little sooner, or maintains green long enough for buses to proceed through intersections, contributes to quicker service.

“The new lane will show drivers how Metro Rapid vehicles bypass the traffic and move more people faster through the corridor,” said Metro Transportation Manager Timothy Papandreou. [MN](#)



The Hollywood/Vine Metro Rail Station will one day resemble a mini-resort, as depicted in this artist's rendition of joint development provided by developer Legacy Partners.

Joint Development Planned For Hollywood/Vine Station

In several years, Metro Rail riders who stop at the Hollywood/Vine Metro Rail Station will be able to shop or stay overnight, or even longer.

When completed in 2006, the 2.8-acre location jointly developed by Metro, Legacy Partners and Gatehouse Capital, will feature retail stores, including a grocery, occupying 60,000 square feet.

The businesses will be located on the ground floor of a four-star hotel with 300 rooms, up to 75 condominiums and 200 apartments. A 732-space, two-level underground parking structure also will be constructed.

Metro's first major joint development, a retail/entertainment complex aptly named Hollywood & Highland, is located at the same intersection above the Metro Rail station. [MN](#)

Redesigned Website Pairs Up Car And Vanpoolers

Metro's redesigned website matches people looking to carpool or vanpool with other people who want to share the cost of driving and use carpool lanes to get to work faster and reduce stress.

Ride Match, located below the Trip Planner on the home page, provides employers and employees who submit preliminary data with such information as possible matches, maps and information on how to find a vanpool map and park and ride matches in their area.

“People are interested in sharing the ride to work and back,” said Metro Employer Programs Manager David Sutton. “The system helps employers and employees, and updates information faster.” [MN](#)

New Day Pass Is Ticket To Hassle Free Riding

Beginning January 1, riding Metro will become more convenient than ever with the new Day Pass.

For the single regular price of \$3, and \$1.50 for seniors/disabled/Medicare, customers can travel all day an unlimited number of times on local Metro Bus lines, Metro Rapid and Metro Rail.

Instead of purchasing multiple transfers, passengers can access buses faster, and actually save money over the single-fare price if they board three or more times with a regular Day Pass.

The Day Pass can be purchased on board any Metro Bus, Metro Rapid bus, or at any Metro Rail station ticket vending machine. [MN](#)



New Metro Bus colors include bright California poppy orange to improve the appearance of the fleet and help customers identify the type of service.

Metro Bus Fleet Receiving Makeover

Faster and more reliable, Metro Bus also is becoming more visually pleasing.

The repainting of Metro Buses using vibrant colors often found in a rainbow will take approximately three years to complete and will help customers tell the difference between various types of service.

The distinct paint schemes include bright California poppy orange to reflect local bus service and bright red for Metro Rapid. A base color, silver, to be used on all buses and trains, is paired with reflective decals to improve safety and visibility.

New coaches delivered to Metro will already sport the new appearance. [MN](#)



Much-Needed

Following the presentation of \$45 million in federal government grants to Metro for completion of Metro Red Line construction to the San Fernando Valley and purchase of new buses, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta (right) inspected new Metro Buses with Deputy CEO John Catoe and fielded questions from reporters.

Escalator Downtime Significantly Reduced

Sheriff's Department fare inspectors now are making sure Metro Rail escalators deliberately turned off by mischief-makers to inconvenience passengers are being restored to service much more quickly.

Besides their fare and security checking duties, the inspectors also act as transit ambassadors, helping riders with directions, information and other needed assistance.

“Unfortunately shutting down escalators had become a relatively common occurrence and was a burden on passengers. It was really impeding the flow of traffic during peak hours. That has all changed,” said LASD Lt. Michael Parker. [MN](#)



Metro Rail fare inspectors double-check to make sure escalators they restored to service are working safely.