

Metro News

New West LA Division Bus Fleet Could Double In 2006

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Metro[™]



Artist's rendition of new Metro Bus operating division that will be built in West Los Angeles.



The first of three Metro Orange Line bridges has been completed over the Los Angeles River in the Sepulveda Basin.

New West LA Bus Division May Store 100% More Buses

When Metro's West Los Angeles Transportation Center on Jefferson Boulevard near National Boulevard opens in 2006, customers will begin experiencing even better service.

The new center will replace the current Metro Bus operations division in Venice and feature a clean air, compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling facility and, potentially, capacity for twice as many buses, to serve some of the busiest lines in the Metro Westside/Central service sector.

"We now have the opportunity to relocate closer to our riders, which improves our efficiency and allows us to put more service on the road to meet current and future needs on the Westside," said MTA Deputy CEO John Catoe. [MN](#)

Orange Line Marks Major Milestone

Construction is proceeding on the innovative Metro Orange Line transitway in the San Fernando Valley. The Orange Line will whisk customers between Warner Center in the West Valley to the North Hollywood Metro Rail Station faster than driving a car.

When it opens in 2005, customers who use the 14-mile landscaped transitway will enjoy rides in comfortable low-floor, 60-foot clean fuel vehicles with 60 seats and three doors for entering and exiting.

Other amenities include electronic signs at 13 stations that provide customers with up-to-date arrival times. There also will be park and ride lots, an adjacent pedestrian path and bikeway along the exclusive bus lane. [MN](#)

New Metro Rapid Lines Will Make Debut In Early Summer

Two more Metro Rapid lines will open in late June. Both will stop near major hospitals and deliver passengers to destinations up to 25% faster than standard service.

The 16.5-mile Vernon/La Cienega Metro Rapid will serve West Hollywood, Los Angeles, Vernon and Huntington Park and will stop at the West Los Angeles Kaiser Permanente Hospital.

The 10-mile Soto Metro Rapid will run through Los Angeles, Cypress Park, Vernon and Huntington Park and will stop at County/USC Medical Center.

Metro Rapid is the fastest form of on-street Metro Bus service. Fewer stops are made than local and limited buses and a traffic signal priority system reduces the amount of time Metro Rapid buses stop for red lights. [MN](#)

Identity Change Reflects Many Metro Endeavors

A redesigned 'M' logo that emphasizes the word "Metro," repainted buses and the "Go Metro" advertising campaign, launched in January, are among efforts to familiarize customers with all services and programs offered by Metro.

"If you walk, drive, ride a bike or use transit in LA County, you're a Metro customer," said Warren Morse, deputy executive officer of marketing and customer relations.

Central to the re-branding campaign are already well-known services such as Metro Bus, Metro Rapid, Metro Rail, the Metro Freeway Service Patrol, which helps stranded motorists, and Metro Commute Services' ridesharing programs. [MN](#)



Roundtrips on shuttle from Metro Rail Aviation Station to LAX are free with proof of Metro Green Line fare.

Buses And Trains Go To LA County Airports

By taking public transit rather than driving to area airports, passengers save money that would have been spent on parking or gas and arrive in a more relaxed state.

Metro Bus and Metro Rail, Metrolink, and such municipal operators as Long Beach Transit, the Santa Monica Big Blue Bus and Culver City Municipal Bus Lines all take passengers to and from airports. Destinations include Los Angeles International (LAX), Bob Hope Airport in Burbank and Long Beach Airport.

"Many LA travelers are simply unaware that there are alternatives to driving to and from county airports," said MTA CEO Roger Snoble. "In the case of LAX, travelers can take Metro Bus or Metro Rail and then board a free connecting shuttle." [MN](#)

Metro Clean Does Its Part

Many Metro Buses, bus stops and terminals get special cleaning to improve the quality of life of customers who use public transit.

On any given day, up to 70 people participate in the Metro Clean Program, which was started in 1995. These individuals also frequently engage in community cleanup events.

Metro Clean Community Service Program crews are made up of juvenile and adult offenders assigned by LA County courts.

In 2003, more than 37,000 bus stops, 23,000 buses and 331 terminals were cleaned. In addition, nearly 35,000 bags of trash were removed from the streets of Los Angeles. [MN](#)



Metro Westside/Central Governance Council members inspected first CompoBUS. The 45-foot buses feature six more seats than standard buses and will debut this summer.

Westside/Central Governance Council Revs Up To Improve Bus Service

To improve the efficiency of Metro bus operations, the newly formed Metro Westside/Central Governance Council is holding monthly public meetings.

The public is welcome to attend meetings at the La Cienega Tennis Center, 325 S. La Cienega Boulevard, the first Thursday of the month starting at 2 pm.

Council members are elected by the Council of Governments and nominated by the LA County supervisorial districts.

For more information, call 213.922.1240, send a fax to 213.922.1212, or email litvakj@mta.net [MN](#)