

Metro News

Metro Rapid Will Expand To Nine Lines On June 27

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Metro[™]



The Metro Rapid line that will run on Vernon Avenue and La Cienega Boulevard will stop at West Los Angeles Kaiser Permanente Hospital.



It's only a matter of time before the price of gasoline goes through the roof.

Metro Rapid Set To Roll On Soto And La Cienega

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 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 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](#)

Go Metro And Avoid Rising Gas Prices

Metro customers are saving precious dollars as opposed to commuters who drive alone and are spending more of their hard-earned dollars on filling up the gas tank. Before the year ends, gas prices are predicted to reach \$3 a gallon.

Commuters who share the cost of driving by participating in the Metro rideshare programs, Club Metro and Rideshare Rewards, save money.

Commuters who switch from solo driving to public transit, carpools or vanpools can save more than \$4,000 per year in commuting costs, according to a cost comparison conducted by Metro. [MN](#)

EZ Transit Passes Popular With Riders

LA County's monthly EZ Transit Pass, which provides customers with unlimited and cost-saving travel on Metro as well as the buses and trains of 16 carriers for one low price, is becoming more popular.

Not only are more customers purchasing the pass for \$58 (senior/disabled/Medicare pay \$29), more transit carriers also are participating in the program.

Burbank Local Transit, Monterey Park's Spirit Bus and Santa Fe's Metro Express soon will be joining the existing network of carriers, including Metro, who are part of the program.

EZ Transit Passes are available at Metro Customer Centers, Municipal Transit Stores, Continental Currency Services, Nix Check Cashing, Popular Cash Express and most Ralph's markets. [MN](#)

Automated Announcements Assist Metro Rail Riders

Pre-recorded English and Spanish announcements being played over the intercom are making life easier for Metro Gold and Green Line passengers, especially visually impaired riders.

The automated system announces the next station shortly before arrival and again as the train eases to a stop.

Passengers also are alerted that eating and drinking are not allowed on trains and not to forget their belongings when exiting.

The automated cues have been well received by passengers due to the sharper sound and professional delivery. [MN](#)



After he takes Metro Gold Line from Pasadena to downtown Los Angeles with bike in tow, passenger Louis Valesco uses leg power to visit a friend.

Bicyclists Get Free Metro Rides On Bike To Work Day

Board any Metro Bus or Metro Rail service with a bicycle and/or safety helmet and ride for free on Bike To Work Day, Thursday, May 20. Metro is one of the lead agencies promoting the event, which is being held during the statewide 9th annual Bike Commute Week.

Bicyclists who sign up any time between May 17 and May 21 at metro.net also can win prizes.

The purpose of Bike Commute Week is to develop bicycling as a safe form of transportation to the workplace, decrease traffic congestion and improve air quality.

Bikes are welcome on Metro Rail trains (with some restrictions), and most Metro Buses have bike racks. [MN](#)

Juror Pass Program Expanding

Superior Court jurors who participate in Metro's expanding Juror Pass Program can avoid traffic hassles by taking buses and trains to court.

Jurors who exchange their vehicle mileage reimbursement for unlimited local travel on Metro arrive at court in a more relaxed state since they don't have to negotiate tricky or unfamiliar streets or hunt for parking.

"More and more courts realize the program is a great solution to satisfying jurors' needs," said Metro Employer Programs Manager David Sutton.

The program has been expanded to include Superior Courts in Alhambra, East LA, Hollywood, Glendale and Burbank. Other eligible courts are located at LAX, Compton, Long Beach, Norwalk, Van Nuys, Downtown Los Angeles and Pasadena. [MN](#)



It's not unusual to spot a Metro Service Sector Governance council member such as the South Bay's Curren Price (right) sampling Metro Bus service. Gaining insight into the actual quality of service being offered to customers helps members work with residents from throughout LA County at monthly council meetings where important bus improvement decisions are made. There are five community-based Metro service sectors.

Metro Service Improvements Outpace The Nation

It's unanimous: three major transit agencies from outside California are impressed by Metro's efforts to provide better service to people who depend on public transit.

After sampling Metro service, representatives from Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, San Francisco MUNI and the Chicago Transit Authority concluded that Metro has demonstrated "exceptional diligence" in its efforts to improve bus service to people dependent on public transit in LA County.

The peer review took into consideration that since 1996, 1,800 new buses have been added to the fleet, the average age of the fleet dropped by five years, the fleet size increased from 1,946 to 2,375, and that the number of passengers who cannot find a seat on the bus continues to drop.

"An assessment of the peer review panel that 'overall, Metro service enhancements have outpaced most, if not all, of the nation's systems,' is an affirmation of our efforts and that our approach is working," said MTA Deputy CEO John Catoe. [MN](#)