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PUBLIC INVITED TO RIDE THE NEW METRO GREEN LINE AT MTA EVENT ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority will offer free rides for the public on the new Metro Green Line on St. Patrick's Day, between the Norwalk/I-105 Station and Imperial Wilmington Station.

"This will be the first chance for the public to take a look of L.A.'s newest rail system," said Franklin White, chief executive officer of the MTA. "The Green Line is built to help handle the traveling needs of Los Angeles in the future, and it will serve the public for the next 100 years."

Marketing Action Groups from each of the cities along the Green Line alignment are actively involved in the planning of the March 17 St. Patrick's Day ride. The public will meet at the parking lot of the I-605/I-105 Green Line Station in Norwalk. Features include shamrocks, bagpipes, costumed dancers, leprechauns, high school bands and Travis the Owl, the Green Line mascot that brings rail safety messages to students along Los Angeles' Metro rail lines.

The Green Line extends 20 miles from the I-605 Freeway in Norwalk to Marine Avenue in Redondo Beach. It has 14 stations. Once the line is completed, the trip from end to end will take approximately 35 minutes. Most of the alignment runs down the center of the I-105 Glenn Anderson Freeway. At Imperial/Aviation the line curves three-and-one-half miles south on its own elevated guideway.

Green Line riders will be able to make connections to the LAX, Hollywood Park, The Forum, El Segundo Employment area, the Metro Blue and Red Lines and the Harbor Freeway Transit way.

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The Metro Green Line is 94 percent complete and is expected to open in June or July of 1995. Initially, trains will operate from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., every seven-and-one-half minutes during rush hour.

"We are preparing a bus/rail interface plan that will establish a network of bus and shuttles to serve each station."

The Metro Green Line will bring the number of operating Metro Rail miles to 46 and the number of stations to 39.

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