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MTA TO CANCEL FOUR COMMUTER SHUTTLES

The MTA Board of Directors on March 22nd voted to cancel four commuter shuttle services this summer due to low ridership. The four shuttles include lines 515 (Blue Line Transfer), 545 (Highway Hummer), 622/623 (Rabbit Transit), and 624 (West Hills Loop).

The Blue Line Transfer operates direct service from the Metro Blue Line Artesia Station to El Segundo; the Highway Hummer links the Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink Station with the Chatsworth area; the Rabbit Transit serves the LAX Transit Center and business centers of Westchester and El Segundo; and the West Hills Loop serves several shopping centers and business districts in the West Hills area.

The lines were established in late 1993 and early 1994 for an 18 month trial period to test the feasibility of shuttle service to high employment areas. The four lines, using leased mini-buses, were projected to carry a combined total of up to 3,600 passengers per day. However, average daily ridership was far below those expectations.

Passengers who use the shuttle service will have alternatives. Line 515 will be replaced by the Metro Green Line, which opens later this summer. Line 622/23 passengers will have a variety of options with the Green Line bus/rail interface plan. Line 545 could be replaced by the proposed restructuring of Line 239, and Line 624 may be replaced by LADOT service as part of the San Fernando Valley Restructuring Study.

The 18-month project was funded by the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and matching funds from Prop C and farebox revenues. Leases for the vehicles will be terminated when the lines are cancelled.

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