



NEWS

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MTA'S STATE-OF-THE-ART RAIL SYSTEM GETS VISITORS WHERE THEY WANT TO GO

Southern California, which for so many years has worshipped the automobile, is now enthusiastically embracing rapid transit in an effort to get people where they want to go with less congestion and improved air quality.

There are now 452 miles of commuter rail, light rail and subway available, and another 42 miles are under construction or on the drawing boards.

The number of riders taking advantage of the clean, fast and dependable rail system is growing every day. The most recent count showed 105,850 boarding passengers on weekdays and 41,700 on a Saturday or Sunday.

“Visitors to Los Angeles may be surprised to know they can now travel by rail from downtown to the Queen Mary or other Long Beach ocean side attractions,” said Larry Zarian, MTA Board Chairman. “They can travel by rail from near Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to the central city. They also can be whisked by subway through the heart of the business district to Wilshire Boulevard’s Miracle Mile.”

“Los Angeles derives its strength from the approximately 180 nationalities and

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cultures that make up its population,” added Zarian. “Our region’s public transportation links all of our communities together making Los Angeles an exciting and memorable place to visit. And, we are building more to accommodate our region’s future growth.”

Los Angeles’ historic Union Station has been rejuvenated and has become the hub of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Other transportation services, which include the Metro Red Line subway, the Metro Blue and Green line rail systems, Metro Bus, Metrolink commuter rail, Amtrak trains and DASH shuttle buses, fan out like spokes from this hub.

RED LINE

In a city famed for its maze of freeways, 25,000 riders go underground every day to board the 4.2 mile Red Line subway between Alvarado Boulevard and Union Station. The Red Line opened January 30, 1993 and, on July 13, 1996, service will be extended west another 2.1 miles beneath Wilshire with stops at Vermont, Normandie and Western. Red Line ridership is expected to increase to 40,000 a day when the extension opens.

By late 1998, visitors will be able to ride the Red Line from downtown to Hollywood Boulevard, with stops near the World Famous Mann’s Chinese Theater and its array of hand and footprints of the stars of the silver screen, as well as the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Work also is underway tunneling under the Hollywood Hills to transport visitors another 6.3 miles to Universal City, a jumping off point for Universal Studios and other attractions in the San Fernando Valley. This leg of the Red Line is scheduled for completion in 2001.

Another section of the line, soon to be built, will carry riders from the site of the city’s founding, *El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora, Reina de Los Angeles*, into the colorful Hispanic neighborhoods of the Eastern part of the city.

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BLUE LINE

For those eager to experience the sights, sounds and salt air of the Pacific, there is the Blue Line light rail which courses 22 miles from downtown Los Angeles to the port of Long Beach. Every week, the Blue Line, which opened in July, 1990, serves more than 267,000 workers, shoppers and tourists at 22 stops.

Not to be forgotten is the northeast area of Los Angeles. Now under construction is the 13.6 mile Pasadena Blue Line expected to open in 2002, which will travel through historic Chinatown, across the Los Angeles River and through Pasadena, long famed for its Rose Bowl, the Huntington Library and Gardens, and more recently, for its "Old Town" of smart boutiques and night life in a 1920's atmosphere.

GREEN LINE

On August 12, 1995 the MTA added another color to its rail rainbow—green. The Metro Green Line opened as part of a transportation project that combines rail transit and freeway travel. The trains run down the center of the new Glenn Anderson Freeway, or I-105, providing an important link between downtown Los Angeles and the El Segundo area near Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). At present, LAX passengers are transferred by shuttle from the airport terminal to the Green Line station at Aviation Boulevard.

"We are a region on the move, and we have buses and trains to help visitors get about and see the sights and sounds of vibrant Los Angeles County," said Joe Drew, MTA's CEO. "Every day we carry more than 1 million boarding passengers on our bus system—so we hope visitors will give us a try and ride an MTA bus or train when they tour Southern California."

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