



# NEWS

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## MTA OFFERS FREE RIDES ON THE RED LINE THIS WEEKEND WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW WILSHIRE EXTENSION

The MTA is encouraging the public to take a free ride on the Red Line this Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14, as it opens the line's new Wilshire Extension. The extension adds two miles to the Red Line and three stations along Wilshire Boulevard at Vermont, Normandie, and Western Avenues.

"Thousands of people rode the Blue and the Green Lines, as well as the Red Line when the first segment opened in 1990. We expect another great turnout this weekend for the opening of this extension," said MTA Chairman Larry Zarian. "We hope ridership will increase as people find out what a great way it is to get from Union Station to any of the other seven Red Line stations.

People can ride free on the Red Line both days between 5 a.m. and 11:30 p.m.

Sixteen Metro Bus lines will link with the three new Metro Red Line stations, providing new travel opportunities and faster service for thousands of MTA patrons.

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"The extension of the Red Line with another two miles of rail west of downtown Los Angeles is a major milestone in the development of the rail transportation system in the region," said Larry Zarian, MTA Chairman. "Now, thousands of people who travel to and from downtown will have a much faster commute. In fact, some of our riders will be able to save up to 15 minutes each way."

Ridership on the Red Line is expected to increase in the next year from its present 22,000 average daily boarding passengers to 40,000, Zarian noted. The three new stations are located on Wilshire at Vermont, Normandie and Western.

Five Metro bus lines which operate on Wilshire between Santa Monica and Century City and downtown Los Angeles will stop at the three new stations.

Metro bus passengers with proper transfers will be able to transfer for free from bus lines 20, 21, 22, 320 and 322 and board trains at any of the stations.

Starting September 15, two of those lines, Line 320, from Santa Monica, and Line 322, serving Century City, will be terminated at the Western station. Passengers using these lines also will be able to transfer for free to Red Line trains.

Metro bus Line 497 (San Gabriel Valley – Los Angeles), which currently serves several stops in downtown Los Angeles and terminates at Wilshire and Western, will be terminated at Wilshire Blvd. and Westlake Ave. Passengers on Line 497 will be able to obtain a free line continuation transfer and complete their trip by rail.

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Metrolink passengers transferring from trains at Union Station will continue to transfer for free to the rail line.

"Hundreds of Metrolink and Metro Blue Line passengers will benefit from this extension of the Red Line," said Joe Drew, MTA's CEO. "It will eliminate a transfer for many of them now required at the MacArthur Park station. It also will save steps and time and result in more people discovering the value and convenience of Metrolink commuter rail and Red and Blue Line subway services."

Rail tickets will be used as a line continuation transfers for train riders who transfer from trains to one of the Wilshire bus lines, Drew noted.

The new Western Avenue rail station will be served by four bus lines. They include Lines 207 (Western Avenue), Line 357 (Western Avenue limited), Line 209 (Van Ness Avenue – Arlington Avenue), Line 426 (San Fernando Valley – Wilshire Boulevard – Los Angeles Express) and Line 310 (Crenshaw Blvd.-Vine Street-South Bay Galleria limited).

The new Normandie station will be served by Line 206 (Normandie Avenue).

The Vermont Avenue station will be served by Line 51 (West 7<sup>th</sup> Street – San Pedro Street – Avalon Boulevard – Compton Boulevard), Line 201 (Silverlake Boulevard – Glendale), Line 204 (Vermont Avenue), Line 354 (Vermont Avenue Limited) and new Line 316 (West Third Street Limited).

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Line 316 (West Third Street Limited) will provide limited bus service Monday through Friday during the morning and evening rush hours between Century City and the Wilshire/Vermont Station. The line will provide faster service than local Line 16 service on Third because it makes stops only at major transfer points.

Passengers wishing to transfer between Lines 16 and 316 on Third Street will be given a free continuation transfer.

The first weekend of train service will be free to the public. Effective July 15, Red Line train fares will increase from their present 25 cents to \$1.35.

"We want people to sample the Red Line for free on July 13 and 14," said Drew. "We believe that as more people discover the fast, economical benefits of the system, they will become frequent riders.

"And that translates into benefits for everyone in Southern California, because it means less dependence on the automobile, a cleaner environment because of less pollution, and less congestion on our streets and highways."

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