



NEWS

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CONTACT: GARY WOSK/MARC LITTMAN
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2712/922-2700
WWW.MTA.NET/PRESSROOM
E-MAIL: mediarelations@mta.net

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CHANGE NOTHING TO FEAR AT TWO METRO RAIL STATIONS

These times, they are A-Changin' at some Metro Rail stations.

The first change machines on the Metro Rail System are being tested at the Universal City and North Hollywood Metro Red Line stations.

"So far, they're holding up really well," said James Cudlip, MTA Deputy Director of Revenue. "We haven't received too many calls about the machines not accepting bills."

Installed in early June and August on the mezzanine level next to ticket vending machines (TVM), the change machines accept \$1, \$5 and \$10 bills, old or new, and give back dollar coins which can then be fed into TVMs.

"Change is good, change is healthy especially for the people who forever find themselves stuck with large bills and their train is about to pull out," Cudlip said.

A decision is expected to be made later this year on whether to expand the service, at which point a determination would also need to be made on available funding. Installing the machines at all 52 Metro Rail stations would cost approximately \$200,000 and would require MTA Board approval.

"We're not at that decision-making point yet," said Cudlip. "Before a decision can be made we need to determine the volume of usage, the rejection rate and how much maintenance will be required."

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If test results are favorable, the change machines could be calibrated to handle \$20 bills as well.

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