

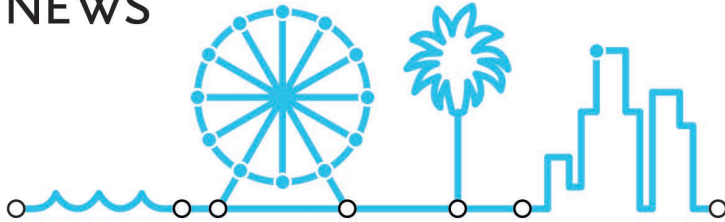


Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

Metro Expo Line to Santa Monica

NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alternatives to Driving/Parking

Metro Encourages Expo Riders to Connect by Walking, Biking, Taking the Bus or Ridesharing

The Expo Line extension to Santa Monica is opening at noon Friday, featuring seven new stations and restoring rail transit to within steps of the Pacific Ocean for the first time since 1953.

There has been enormous interest shown in this project and Metro is anticipating very big crowds this weekend. The agency encourages Expo riders to reach the stations by walking, biking, taking the bus or ridesharing to avoid traffic and parking hassles.

As a thank you to residents and taxpayers, Los Angeles Metro is offering free rides on the entire Expo Line from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica from noon Friday until the close of service Saturday night. Patrons will need to pay regular fares on the rest of the Metro bus and rail system. To learn more about how to ride, please visit www.metro.net/riding/getting-started/.

On Saturday, community celebrations will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at six stations: Downtown Santa Monica, 17th/SMC, 26th St/Bergamot, Expo/Bundy, Palms and Culver City. The parties will include entertainment, children's activities, food trucks, bike valet, bike-pit stops and information booths.

Every station is served by Big Blue Bus, Culver City Bus or Metro Bus lines. To learn more about the different bus routes connecting with Expo, visit <http://thesource.metro.net/2016/05/11/new-expo-no-driving/>. In addition, the Expo Line extension features a new bikeway that runs mostly on an exclusive path alongside trains. It features fresh lane striping, signage, lighting and landscaping. Stations have bicycle racks and lockers.

To help provide first mile/last mile connections with the Expo Line, Metro's Office of Extraordinary Innovation has formed a partnership with the ridesharing service Uber to offer a \$5 discount for all Uber POOL rides that begin or end at one of the new Expo Line stations plus Culver City, from May 20 through May 22. Metro and Uber are also celebrating the first two weeks of Expo Extension service by offering a \$15 discount for brand new Uber users who travel to or from all new Expo stations plus Culver City, through June 3.

"As new services are offered to more areas of the county, first mile/last mile connections become an important part of accessing transit," said Metro CEO Phillip Washington.

"Ridesharing services like uberPOOL help extend Metro's reach while complementing our efforts to build a more sustainable, innovative and efficient transportation network that serves all Angelenos," said Metro Chief Innovation Officer Dr. Joshua Schank.

The discount is good on any uberPOOL ride to or from the seven new Expo Line stations and Culver City Station. Riders must register through uberPOOL to receive the discount with a limit of one discounted ride per person. The promo code for the offer is EXPLOREMORELA. To learn how to get the discount, visit <http://wp.me/p2yftd-onm>.

Three of the new Expo Line stations have parking: Expo/Sepulveda, Expo/Bundy and 17th/SMC. There are 575 spaces among the three stations. Some of those spaces are set aside in the morning for those who purchase monthly permits and some are available for a daily \$2 fee. To learn more about the new parking program, visit <http://thesource.metro.net/2016/04/27/expo-parking-may-20/>.

The dense and highly developed Westside posed a challenge to build parking. During the planning process for the project, factors such as cost, available property, visual and traffic impacts and community feedback were all considered in determining the amount and location of parking along the line.

Metro did build parking at the three stations where the agency already owned property as part of building the project. Purchasing more land and building more parking would have been very costly and difficult due to local restrictions. Metro is looking to partner with the city of Santa Monica on additional parking opportunities. Metro data from annual surveys shows that the majority of riders reach transit stops by walking, getting a ride or biking.

With tens of thousands of residents living near the Expo Line and many [popular destinations served](#), Metro anticipates very high ridership on the entire Expo Line going forward. The Expo Line between downtown L.A. and Culver City already has about 30,000 average boardings on weekdays.

About Expo

The \$1.5-billion, 6.6-mile light rail project from Culver City to Santa Monica has seven new stations: Palms, Westwood/Rancho Park, Expo/Sepulveda, Expo/Bundy, 26th Street/Bergamot, 17th Street/Santa Monica College and Downtown Santa Monica. Each station features original art. A new rail car maintenance facility in Santa Monica will operate around-the-clock.

The Expo Line extension was built by the Expo Construction Authority, an independent transportation planning and construction agency. The project was largely funded by Measure R, the half-cent sales tax increase approved by Los Angeles County voters in 2008. Construction of Phase 2 began in 2011 and the project was completed in early 2016 and handed over to Metro for operation.

About Metro

Metro is a multimodal transportation agency that is really three companies in one: a major operator that transports about 1.5 million boarding passengers on an average weekday on a fleet of 2,000 clean air buses and six rail lines, a major construction agency that oversees many bus, rail, highway and other mobility related building projects, and it is the lead transportation planning and programming agency for Los Angeles County. Overseeing one of the largest public works programs in America, Metro is, literally, changing the urban landscape of the Los Angeles region. Dozens of transit, highway and other mobility projects largely funded by Measure R are under construction or in the planning stages. These include five new rail lines, the I-5 widening and other major projects.

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