



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro News

April 28, 2016
Rick Jager/Joni Goheen
Metro Media Relations
213.922.2707/213.922.6931
metro.net/press/pressroom
mediarelations@metro.net
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Verizon First Provider to Launch

~~4G LTE Wireless Cell Service in the Subway Service~~ Now Available to Verizon Customers In Metro Subway Stations and Tunnels along the Red/Purple Lines

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), in partnership with InSite Wireless Group and Verizon now provides the first phase of underground wireless service for Verizon customers on the Metro Red/Purple Lines between Union Station and 7th Street/Metro Center Station in downtown Los Angeles.

“We applaud Verizon for stepping up to the plate and being the first of what we hope will be all primary wireless network providers to come on board and to provide cellular service in our subway tunnels,” said Metro Board Chair Mark Ridley-Thomas. “This is a major technology milestone for commuters using the Metro Red and Purple Lines to have access to wireless communication services while traveling underground.”

Metro and InSite Wireless Group, the firm under contract to provide the needed equipment for the service, also announced that Sprint and T-Mobile have signed-up to provide service which will be available in two to three months. ~~after the needed equipment is installed.~~ Negotiations are on-going with AT&T.

~~“These days, practically everyone is attached to their mobile devices and they need to access data on a continuous basis. After a lot of planning and coordination, Metro is pleased to offer the first phase of cell service to our riders,”~~ said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. ~~“Wireless More service that was non-existent will be coming over the next few months in our subway tunnels and stations is now a reality with plans to expand that service throughout our subway system and will~~ enhance ourthe customer experience.”

Verizon customers with 4G LTE devices will have access to HD Voice and data services. Emergency 911 calls can also be made. In the event of an emergency, riders are reminded to first contact the train operator via the emergency intercom system located on board trains and on station platforms. Riders also can use the text feature on the Transit Watch app on their smartphones to report issues directly to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

“Verizon customers depend on their mobile devices to stay connected throughout their busy days. Bringing our 4G LTE network to the LA Metro system is part of our continued effort to provide a best-in-class network experience for our customers wherever they live, work and play,” said Greg Haller, Pacific Market President for Verizon.

More...

Page 2-2-2
Metro Subway Cell Service

The wireless service is accessible throughout the busy 7th Street/Metro Center Station, including the platforms for Blue Line and Expo Line trains.

In the next phase of the program, wireless service will be provided on the Purple Line between 7th Street/Metro Center Station and Wilshire/Western. The service is expected to be up and running on by fall 2016.

Subsequent phases of the program will then expand the service on the Red Line from Wilshire/Vermont Station to the North Hollywood Station in the San Fernando Valley. Service will also be provided on Metro Gold Line underground stations in Pasadena and in East Los Angeles. Those expansions should be completed in 2017.

~~The Metro Board of Directors awarded a 20-year contract to InSite Wireless in 2013 to provide cellular coverage in the Metro underground rail system tunnels and stations. Under the agreement, InSite bears all the upfront capital costs to build the cellular antenna system and then gets reimbursed by the cellular providers as they sign up to provide service underground. As part of the agreement with InSite, Metro receives a portion of the revenues generated on an ongoing basis once the cellular service is operational.~~

About Metro

Metro is a multimodal transportation agency that is really three companies in one: a major operator that transports about 1.4 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.

Stay informed by following Metro on The Source and El Pasajero at metro.net, [facebook.com/losangelesmetro](https://www.facebook.com/losangelesmetro), twitter.com/metrolosangeles and twitter.com/metroLAalerts and [instagram.com/metrolosangeles](https://www.instagram.com/metrolosangeles).

###