



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**News**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **L.A. Metro to Open Blue Line in Late October Following Completion of Extensive “New Blue” Improvements**

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) will open the Metro Blue Line in late October following completion of a \$350 million initiative to upgrade and modernize L.A. County’s oldest light rail line.

Metro will celebrate the line’s reopening and thank the public for its patience with free rides and a local community celebration. The exact opening date and details of the celebration will be announced next month following train testing.

The Metro Blue Line, which travels between downtown Los Angeles and Long Beach, typically accommodates about 65,000 riders per day. Work on the Blue Line’s southern section began in late January between Downtown Long Beach and 103<sup>rd</sup> St/Watts Towers stations. Improvements are in progress on the northern section of the Blue Line between Compton and 7th/Metro stations, which has required four times more work than the southern section. Metro is providing several bus shuttle services for customers throughout this project.

“We are proud of this critically needed repair work and make the Blue Line better and more reliable for Metro customers,” said Inglewood Mayor and Metro Board Chair James T. Butts. “Our customers will see for themselves just how much effort we’ve put into improving their transit riding experience.”

The New Blue Improvements Project is a part of Metro’s State of Good Repair initiative which targets to keep existing and future transit assets in good working order while

substantially upgrading the overall transit system to provide more reliability and reduce breakdowns and mechanical issues.

In addition to replacing tracks and upgrading train control and overhead power systems, one of the project's major milestones is the addition of four new crossover tracks/switches which will reduce service interruptions for customers. Specific improvements to the line include upgraded rail tracks, overhead power lines, train control and switches.

"We would like to sincerely thank the public for its patience during our construction work to improve one of our nation's busiest light rail lines," said Metro CEO Phillip A, Washington. "We are excited to announce that, in addition to improving the reliability of the Blue Line, we are also enhancing the customer experience with the new digital customer information screens, new signage, new paint, and more."

For information visit the New Blue website at [www.metro.net/newblue](http://www.metro.net/newblue) or call the project hotline (213) 418-3039.

### **About Metro**

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is unique among the nation's transportation agencies. Created in 1993, Metro is a multimodal transportation agency that transports about 1.3 million passengers daily on a fleet of 2,200 clean air buses and six rail lines. The agency also oversees bus, rail, highway and other mobility-related building projects and leads transportation planning and programming for Los Angeles County.

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