BACKGROUND

The New Blue Improvements Project, a $350 million investment in Metro’s oldest rail line, enhanced safety, increased reliability to improve the customer experience. The nature of the work required portions of the Blue Line to be closed for two extended four-month closures. The southern segment closure began in late January 2019 and was completed in June. The northern segment, which began construction in June, will be complete on November 2, 2019. During these closures, Metro has provided several different bus shuttles that travel to and from downtown LA.

During the southern segment closure, Metro bus shuttles, along with the municipal buses that travel in this corridor, caused an increase in traffic in this already congested corridor.

Currently, southbound buses from downtown LA encounter significant traffic congestion during the evening peak period. The municipal operators include Metro buses (including Silver Line), Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), Commuter Express, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) buses and Torrance Transit.

In total, there were nearly 60 buses per hour or nearly one bus per minute, traveling along southbound Flower St from 7th Street to the 28th St/I-110 ExpressLanes entrance during the evening peak period, plus vehicular traffic.

OVERVIEW

To provide a solution for the tens of thousands of passengers traveling in the southern corridor of downtown LA, Metro and LADOT are partnered on a pilot project to improve mobility along the Flower St corridor during the evening peak hours by:

- Revising the existing “No Parking/Stopping” curb lane hours from 4–6 pm to 3–7 pm to better reflect today’s traffic conditions and ridership demands

- Converting the curb lane into a bus lane during peak hours by implementing temporary “Bus Only” signage and striping during the hours of 3–7pm Monday through Friday, to provide expedited bus service to the thousands of daily commuters, and reduce traffic conflicts with other vehicles

- Exploring “signal queue jumper” opportunities to allow buses to bypass traffic and safely enter the I-110 South ExpressLanes from Flower St at 28th St

After review and study of the pilot program and its positive impact to the peak-hour traffic flow, Metro is proposing to extend the study of this weekday, Monday to Friday, evening peak hour configuration, for five months through March 2020, beyond the conclusion of the New Blue Improvements Project. Non-peak hours will continue to operate normally without any impacts from the pilot program and the hours and location for the permanent change will not change from what is currently being implemented.

CONTACT US

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PROJECT AREA

The pm peak bus only lane will cover 1.8 miles of Flower St between 7th St and 28th St, at the I-110 South ExpressLanes entrance.