The New Blue Improvements Project is a $350 million investment in Metro's oldest rail line. Through these improvements, Metro is enhancing safety, increasing reliability and improving the customer experience. The nature of the work requires portions of the Blue Line to be closed for two extended four-month closures. The southern segment closure began in late January 2019 and will be complete on June 1, 2019, when the northern segment closure begins. During these closures, Metro is providing several different bus shuttles that are traveling through downtown LA.

During the southern segment closure, Metro bus shuttles along with the municipal buses that travel in this corridor have experienced an increase 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 and the New Blue bus shuttles), Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), Commuter Express, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) buses and Torrance Transit.

A few weeks after the northern segment closure of the New Blue Improvements Project begins, two Expo Line stations will be out of service for 60 days starting June 22, 2019. This additional replacement bus service will increase the number of buses operating in this corridor.

In total, there will be 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.

Given the tens of thousands of passengers traveling in the southern corridor of downtown LA, Metro and LADOT are partnering on a pilot project to improve mobility along the Flower St corridor during the evening peak by:

> Revising the existing “No Parking/Stopping” curb lane hours from 4–6pm to 3–7pm 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, striping during the hours of 3–7pm Monday through Friday, to provide expedited bus service to the thousands of impacted Blue and Expo Line and municipal passengers, 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

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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.