



ADDING TIMES - Metrolink riders board at the Palmdale station Friday afternoon. Metrolink has added Sunday service to downtown Los Angeles and increased Saturday service.

RON SIDDLE/Valley Press

Metrolink adding Sunday trains on AV line

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PALMDALE - Metrolink has added Sunday trains on the Antelope Valley line, extending the weekend for train commuters and pleasure seekers.

Three round-trip trains will travel from Lancaster through the Antelope, Santa Clarita and San Fernando valleys starting today. Metrolink also added two additional trains on Saturday.

"The area is growing enormously, and we're seeing more and more people use that weekend service," said Denise Tyrrell, a Metrolink spokeswoman.

She said the additional Saturday trains and new Sunday trains will open up the weekend for people riding the rails from the Valley to downtown Los Angeles.

"It's a long way to travel to have to turn around and leave the same day," Tyrrell said. "We're expecting these trains to have significant ridership."

Before, Metrolink offered four Saturday trains between Lancaster and Los Angeles, and will now offer six trains in each direction, leaving Lancaster at 6:45 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. and 1:10, 3:30 and 6:25 p.m. The 1:10 and 6:25 trains are new.

Saturday trains from Union Station in Los Angeles now leave at 9 a.m., noon and 2:45, 4:10, 6:05 and 9 p.m. The 4:10 and 9 o'clock trains are new.

Sunday service will have three trains in each direction, leaving Lancaster at 6:45 and 9:45 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., and leaving Union Station at noon and 2:45 and 6:05 p.m.

Trains arrive in Lancaster or at Union Station about one hour and 55 minutes after departing.

Michael Cano, an aide to 5th District County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, said the supervisor pushed to get additional train service to and from the Antelope Valley.

"The supervisor made it a priority to get more funding in the budget for the service," Cano said.

"The Antelope Valley line is probably the heaviest demanded line in the county, along with the San Bernardino line. We're adding more capacity and adding more trips - it'll offer more options in terms of traveling throughout the Southland."

Tyrrell said Metrolink has been receiving lots of requests for more weekend and Sunday trains.

"We're seeing people go all the way from Oceanside, switching trains and going all the way up to the Antelope Valley," she said. "The amount of requests suggests there are plenty of people who want more."

If these trains are successful, Tyrrell and Cano said it could lead to more trains in the future.

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