

City of Seattle
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Media Information

Seattle Center Monorail Red Train Passes Million-Mile Mark

On June 3rd at 9:37am, the odometer on the Seattle Center Monorail Red Train passed through the million-mile mark as the train pulled away from the Westlake Center platform on its one-mile route along 5th Avenue to Seattle Center.

The milestone, 46 years in the making, demonstrates the endurance and longevity of this historic landmark and the vital link it has provided between Seattle Center and the heart of downtown Seattle. Approximately 25 passengers, including a group of pre-schoolers, were on board for a complimentary trip to help Monorail staff cheer the Red Train on to its one-millionth mile.

The Seattle Center Monorail was built for the 1962 Seattle Century 21 World's Fair to provide a crucial link between the fairgrounds and the amenities downtown. Following the Fair, the monorail system was turned over to Century 21 Corporation at no cost. Century 21 sold the system to the City of Seattle in 1965 for \$600,000. Today, the red and blue trains carry approximately 1.5 million riders every year.

The popularity of the Monorail system continues to expand. The Monorail has carried over half a million passengers already this year, and the busy summer season has only just begun. Ridership in May was up 14% from a year earlier, helped along by the 42,000 Northwest Folklife participants who rode the Monorail during the four-day festival. Many Queen Anne commuters use the Monorail for their trip to work.

The Blue Train is currently offline for DMMP (Deferred Major Maintenance Program) and is expected to return to service in mid-July. The Red Train will receive its million-mile tune-up when it goes offline for DMMP this fall. When it returns, the two trains will be back on track and ready to take on their next million miles.

The Monorail departs every 10 minutes from the station at Seattle Center and from Westlake Center Mall at Fifth and Pine Street. Each trip takes two minutes, and each train can carry up to 200 passengers per trip. For more information on Seattle Monorail, click on www.seattlemonorail.com or call the Monorail information line: 206-905-2620.

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