

## Metro Red Line Subway Extension to North Hollywood Set to Open June 24



### Metro Rapid Buses Begin Operations the Same Day

By RICK JAGER

(March 6) The Metro Red Line North Hollywood extension will open to the public on Saturday, June 24, the MTA announced today. The extension is currently on budget and will open six months ahead of the December 31, 2000, deadline mandated in the agency's construction funding agreement with the federal government.

The opening of the new 6.3-mile extension from Hollywood to Universal City and North Hollywood will be the capstone of a rail rapid transit system that crisscrosses Los Angeles County. The extension will feature three new stations at Hollywood/Highland, Universal City and Lankershim/Chandler in North Hollywood. The opening will coincide with the NoHo International Theater and Arts Festival.

#### Metro Rapid bus service

At the same time the subway extension opens, the MTA will debut its Metro Rapid buses on Ventura Boulevard and along Wilshire Boulevard. Modeled after a rapid bus system in Curitiba, Brazil, the new service will expedite bus connections to the subway stations.

The MTA's Metro Rapid buses will be outfitted with special transmitters to extend green lights for faster service. They will make fewer stops than regular buses and will run more frequently. They will stop at specially designed stations to facilitate passenger loading. All Metro Rapid buses will be state-of-the-art, low-floor, compressed natural gas buses with a distinctive red and white color scheme for easy identification.

#### Almost 60 miles of rail service

With the opening of the North Hollywood extension, the Metro Rail system will have nearly 60 miles of rail in service and 50 stations. This includes 17.4 miles of subway with 16 Metro Red Line stations linked with the Metro Blue Line and Metro Green Line.

"This latest expansion of the Metro Rail system will give the transit dependent, commuters, tourists and others access to major job centers, government, schools, hospitals, shopping, sports, entertainment and cultural venues throughout Los Angeles County," said Los Angeles County Supervisor and MTA Board Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke.

#### Through trains to NoHo

When the MTA inaugurates Metro Red Line service to North Hollywood, June 24, trains bound for Hollywood will continue on to the new stations at Hollywood/Highland, Universal City and North Hollywood.

The last train bound for the North Hollywood Station will depart 7th Street/Metro Center at 11:42 p.m. The last connecting train from North

Hollywood to 7th Street/Metro Center will depart from the North Hollywood Station at 11:15 p.m. with a stop at the Universal City Station at 11:18 p.m.

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