



**Done deal:** Move your mouse over aerial photo of completed overpass to compare 1998 computerized artist's rendering. **UPDATE:** June 11, 2002. Aerial photo by John Mazzarella.

## MTA Opening 101 Freeway Overpass, Monday, at Universal City



By RICK JAGER

(June 7, 2002) The MTA will join elected officials, Monday, to officially open a new 101 Freeway overpass adjacent to the Metro Red Line subway station and Metro Rapid Bus stop at Universal City.

The six-lane bridge spans the 101 Freeway to link Ventura Boulevard with the Universal City Metro Red Line station via a new access street now known as Campo de Cahuenga Way. The overpass also features a pedestrian walkway and on-and-off-ramps from the 101 freeway.

"Construction of this new overpass...is now complete and will help ease traffic flow in and out of the station, as well as alleviate traffic congestion on surrounding streets," says MTA Board Chairman John Fasana.

Brutoco Engineering and Construction Company built the overpass under contract to the MTA as a cost of \$34.6 million. Construction, which began in December 1999, includes the Universal City Station Bus Plaza, additional parking lots and the widening of Lankershim Boulevard.

### Increase in parking spaces

The Universal City station now has a total of 790 parking spaces, an increase of 400 spaces since the Metro Red Line station opened. There is a new parking facility at Lankershim and Ventura boulevards for 75 vehicles, a county park-n-ride lot along Ventura Boulevard with 162 spaces and a new parking lot northeast of the overpass with 163 additional spaces.

Metro Rapid buses also will benefit from the opening of the new overpass. They now will use the overpass from Ventura Boulevard to access the Universal City Bus Station Plaza, reducing travel time by 5 to 10 percent, depending on the time of day. Regular local MTA bus lines 150 and 240 will begin utilizing the overpass, June 30.

“This will greatly enhance operation of the Metro Rapid buses now operating along Ventura Boulevard,” says CEO Roger Snoble. “Both Metro Rapid and regular Metro buses will now be able to access the station via the new overpass in both directions, saving commuters time in their commute across the Valley.”

The bridge was financed with local, state and federal dollars as part of the expansion of the Metro Red Line from Hollywood and Highland to North Hollywood.

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