



NEWS

APRIL 27, 1994

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MTA TO PAMPER HOLLYWOOD "WALK OF FAME" STARS WITH MUSEUM-QUALITY CARE DURING RED LINE CONSTRUCTION

Beginning April 27, nearly 450 of the famous terrazzo and brass stars that spangle Hollywood Boulevard's internationally-known "Walk of Fame" will be afforded the celebrity treatment by the MTA that a Hollywood star would expect.

To avoid damage and wear during the construction of Metro Red Line subway stations at Hollywood/Vine and Hollywood/Highland, the famous pink-hued terrazzo emblems, that have been gazed upon and photographed by so many fans and tourists over the years, will be carefully removed and stored in individual protective crates, to be returned when construction work is complete.

The work of removing and storing the stars will be performed by Westar, a firm specially trained in the installation and removal of terrazzo and mosaic tiling. Westar also is under contract to the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce to handle original installation of the stars. The stars will be stored by Cooke's Crating, an East Los Angeles storage facility known for its expert handling of museum artifacts.

"We know how important the Hollywood 'Walk of Fame' is to the Hollywood community, and to the tourism business in Los Angeles," said Franklin White, MTA's chief executive officer. "The stars are a beloved piece of our local culture that many future Metro Red Line riders will appreciate. That's why we are treating them with the reverence they deserve."

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Approximately 444 "name" stars are scheduled to be removed and stored during Segment 2 of the Red Line project. The first of 235 stars at the future Hollywood/Vine station site will be removed beginning today near the intersection of Hollywood Boulevard and North Gower Street. The remaining 209 stars at the Hollywood/Highland station site will be removed starting late this fall.

The MTA's Walk of Fame preservation plan calls for all work involving the stars to be monitored by a historic preservation specialist. All the stars are scheduled to be back in place on Hollywood Boulevard in 1997.

"The MTA has worked closely with numerous community organizations to ensure that the Walk of Fame stars are properly taken care of during construction," said Edward McSpedon, MTA executive officer, construction, and president of the Rail Construction Corporation. "The organizations include the Citizens Committee for Metrorail Construction (CCMC), the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission, the Hollywood Historic Trust and the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

"Their input has been extremely valuable to MTA in planning for the care of the terrazzo stars," McSpedon said.

The cost of removing, storing and replacing the stars is estimated to be about \$2.2 million. Westar will perform its MTA responsibilities as a subcontractor to Kajima/Ray Wilson, the Hollywood/Vine Red Line station builder.

Heavy construction of the Hollywood/Vine station is scheduled for a 3 1/2-year period. The 4.6-mile, five-station Red Line segment linking Wilshire/Vermont and Hollywood/Vine is scheduled to open for service in 1998.

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Hollywood/Highland is the first station on the 6.3-mile Red Line Segment 3, which will link Hollywood with Universal City and North Hollywood. Heavy construction of that station is scheduled for a 3 1/2-year period beginning in late 1994. Segment 3 will open for service in 2001.

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