



NEWS

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WORK RESUMES ON HOLLYWOOD/VERMONT TUNNELS; SINKHOLE REPAIRS TO BEGIN

An MTA contractor will on Wednesday afternoon, March 13, begin building a 30-foot sound wall along Hollywood Boulevard as the first step in repairing the sinkhole adjacent to Barnsdall Park. The sinkhole repair is part of the effort to resume work on the Hollywood Boulevard and Vermont Avenue tunnels of the Metro Red Line Segment Two.

"We're happy to have reached this stage," said Stan Phernambucq, MTA's Executive Officer for Construction. "We hope to complete these tunnels in about one year, and keep ourselves on track to open Vermont Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard in the winter of 1998."

Two joint venture construction firms, Tutor-Saliba-Perini and Kajima-Ray-Wilson, who are already working on Segment Two building subway stations, were awarded the work. The project includes completing the final tunnel liner and repairing the sinkhole that collapsed an estimated 80 feet of one of the twin tunnels beneath Hollywood Boulevard.

The sinkhole is being repaired by Kajima, using the cut and cover method. It is the same technique used to build subway stations, and involves excavating a trench 106 feet long, 28 feet wide, and 90 feet deep. A sound wall will be erected on three sides of the perimeter of the area to be repaired, and will not intrude into the two lanes of traffic that are now open.

Once the sound wall has been completed, vertical steel beams called soldier piles will be drilled into the earth around the perimeter of the excavation, and will support the surrounding soil in the excavation. All work will be conducted behind the sound wall and traffic safety barriers.

The sinkhole repair is expected to be complete by the end of the year, and will cost between \$5 and \$7 million. The MTA hopes to recover costs through insurance and litigation.

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