



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KEY CONGRESSIONAL VOTE KEEPS METRO RAIL CONSTRUCTION ON SCHEDULE TO NORTH HOLLYWOOD

Metro Rail construction to North Hollywood will continue on schedule for passenger service to begin in three years thanks to a key Congressional funding vote announced today in Washington, D.C.

A House and Senate conference committee has voted to earmark \$61.5 million in fiscal year 1998 for Metro Rail construction. Earlier the Senate had recommended \$51 million and the House proposed \$76 million. The full House and Senate are expected to concur with the recommendation later this month.

"Congress gave us a green light to push on to North Hollywood and complete the Metro Rail extension there by the year 2000," said MTA Board Chairman and Los Angeles Mayor Richard J. Riordan. "Although it falls short of our original request, we have traveled light years from where we started last Spring. Today's action by Congress is a vote of confidence that the MTA can keep the Metro Rail project on schedule."

While pushing forward with completion of the Metro Red Line to North Hollywood, the committee also recommended earmarking \$24 million of the Metro Rail allocation for the Metro Red Line Eastside extension.

The Eastside extension will be included in a complete review of the MTA's rail construction and bus system improvement program that will be presented to the MTA Board by Interim CEO Julian Burke by the end of this year.

Of the approximately \$800 million in federal monies available for transit projects across the nation in fiscal year 1998, the conference committee voted to give Los Angeles one of the three largest shares of any city.

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