



# NEWS

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CONTACT: ED SCANNELL/MARC LITTMAN  
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS  
(213) 922-2703/922-2700  
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NOHO IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

**MTA COMPLETES MAJOR RESTORATION WORK ON VITAL NORTH HOLLYWOOD THOROUGHFARE; AFTER MORE THAN THREE YEARS OF SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION, TRAFFIC FLOW RETURNS TO NORMAL**

MTA has reached another Metro Rail construction milestone in North Hollywood. Major street restoration work above the Metro Red Line station has been completed, returning the traffic flow on Lankershim Boulevard to normal. That's good news for merchants and residents in the arts and retail community who are proclaiming, "NoHo is Open For Business!"

"We are all very happy and grateful that this phase of the project has been completed ahead of schedule," said Ivy Weiss, executive director of the Universal City-North Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. "It means a lot to all of us in the North Hollywood area to reach this stage of the Metro Red Line construction, and we look forward to the future and success of our merchants, neighbors and Metro Rail."

Street restoration had been expected to take six weekends to complete, but crews were able to wrap up the work this morning one weekend ahead of schedule, signaling the beginning of the final phase of construction work in North Hollywood. Over the next two months, crews will construct new curbs, sidewalks and gutters. An additional weekend closure will be required at a later date to apply a final layer of asphalt.

"As with any major public works project, construction of the Metro Red Line in North Hollywood has certainly tested the patience of merchants, customers, and nearby residents," said MTA CEO Julian Burke. "But it was all done for a purpose. Our work above ground essentially is over and I believe their patience will pay off."

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"I am confident the business and cultural renaissance which began a few short years ago will soon kick into high gear, as it already has done in Hollywood where the community is eagerly awaiting the beginning of Metro Red Line service in May 1999," added Burke. "When the subway extends its reach to North Hollywood in May 2000, sleek new subway cars will whisk thousands of people to NoHo's theaters, restaurants and other businesses."

Construction in North Hollywood began in June 1995. While the work above ground is nearly complete, more work underground remains to ready the North Hollywood Extension for opening. Crews are putting the finishing touches on the North Hollywood Station and the tunnels which head south to Universal City and through the Santa Monica Mountains to Hollywood in anticipation of the testing of track and trains next year.

Completion of the North Hollywood Extension will extend the reach of the Metro Red Line to 17.4 miles and the length of the entire Metro Rail system to 59 miles. Residents of the San Fernando Valley will be able to travel on the Metro Red Line from the North Hollywood Station to Union Station in just 27 minutes.

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