



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA WEIGHING MERITS OF A POSSIBLE 26-DAY STREET CLOSURE FOR THE RESTORATION OF LANKERSHIM BOULEVARD IN NORTH HOLLYWOOD

The MTA is considering whether to close a section of Lankershim Boulevard in North Hollywood for 26 days and nights to speed up restoration of the street which has been the site of Metro Red Line subway construction.

The closure would run from September 14 through October 9 and allow crews to work around the clock instead of working during six complete weekend closures and also during the week for approximately four months to complete the job.

"We have not determined whether a stepped-up schedule makes the most sense for everyone involved," said MTA CEO Julian Burke. "We need to consider the benefits and the burdens, the costs, and the desires of the community before making a final decision."

MTA budgeted \$150,000 for mitigation activities such as advertising, cleaning and parking in accordance with the federally approved environmental document for this project.

"Now there is a suggestion that more money should be provided above and beyond the amount contemplated by the environmental report," added Burke. "Any such additional cost would have to be factored into the financial analysis before a decision is made to accelerate the restoration work."

Regardless of the timetable, restoration work will include deck removal, utility restoration, pouring of concrete sidewalks and gutters, installation of traffic signals and street lighting, paving and striping.

The 6.3 mile North Hollywood Extension of the Metro Red Line is due to open in May 2000. It will create a high-speed link between the San Fernando Valley and Hollywood and extend subway service to a total of 17.4 miles.

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