



# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*TRAIN TESTING UNDERWAY FROM HOLLYWOOD TO SAN FERNANDO VALLEY*

**NORTH HOLLYWOOD METRO RED LINE TRAIN TESTING PROCEEDING AS PLANNED; 6.3-MILE SEGMENT SET TO OPEN IN MID-2000**

When MTA's Metro Red Line subway project is completed later this year to North Hollywood it will be the capstone of a rail rapid transit system crisscrossing Los Angeles County.

The North Hollywood leg of the Metro Red Line will consist of three stations at Hollywood/Highland, Universal City and at Lankershim and Chandler in North Hollywood. Completion is scheduled for mid-2000 and will expand the Metro Red Line subway to 17.4 miles.

MTA's rail startup team has been busy for the past three months testing Metro Red Line systems and trains beneath Lankershim Boulevard as well as some 900 feet below the surface in twin tunnels running through the Santa Monica Mountains to Hollywood and Highland.

In mid-October, 1999 the rail startup crew energized the third rail along the 6.3-mile Metro Rail North Hollywood extension and began testing train cars that will, ultimately, carry thousands of passengers and tourists to and from the San Fernando Valley.

This latest construction milestone of testing the subway trains on the North Hollywood segment signals a major accomplishment in the completion of the subway project to North Hollywood.

In testing the train, the third rail is energized to ensure that its capacity to supply the electric current is sufficient to power the Metro Red Line cars down the tracks. In addition, the testing is conducted to make sure that the "third rail shoe" on each rail car is at the proper height to draw current from the rail.

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All testing of the Metro Red Line trains is being conducted between the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 5 a.m. after which the third rail is de-energized and electrically grounded as a safety precaution to allow other startup related work to resume. In addition, security on the project has been increased.

By mid-2000, the entire Metro Rail system will span nearly 60 miles, connecting Long Beach, Norwalk, El Segundo, Los Angeles, Hollywood, Universal City and North Hollywood and offer a wide range of travel opportunities for Southland residents and visitors.

Ridership on the completed Metro Rail system a year after completion and opening of the North Hollywood segment is expected to reach 200,000 boarding passengers each weekday.

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