



# NEWS

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## **TWO MILE WILSHIRE METRO RED LINE ATTRACTS PUBLIC AFTER JULY 13 OFFICIAL OPENING**

Today thousands of people boarded the Metro Red Line Extension which opened to the public over the weekend.

An estimated 85,000 people traveled Saturday and Sunday between Union Station and the new stations on Wilshire Boulevard at Vermont, Normandie and Western Avenues, enjoying music and entertainment at each of the stations.

"We know that thousands of people will find the extension to the Red Line will help them get to work and other destinations quickly and easily," said Joseph E. Drew, MTA CEO. "The numbers exceeded our expectations as so many came out and rode the line over the weekend. The line will help bring people together in our community, and reduce congestion and air pollution."

Sixteen Metro bus lines now link with the three new rail stations on Wilshire.

The Metro Red Line also provides connections at Union Station for local and regional buses, Metrolink commuter rail lines and Amtrak long distance rail service.

Trains operate between 4:45 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. daily. Travel time from Wilshire/Western, the new temporary western terminus of the line, to Union Station is 13 minutes.

More...

**TWO MILE RED LINE EXTENSION OPENED, page 2**

The opening of the Wilshire/Western extension marks the second phase of a subway construction project which will eventually involve 22 miles of subway connecting downtown Los Angeles, North Hollywood, East Los Angeles and the Pico-Union district.

Currently under construction and slated for completion in December of 1998 is the 4.8 mile Vermont/Hollywood segment from Wilshire/Vermont to Hollywood/Vine in Hollywood. Work also is underway to extend the subway from Hollywood/Vine under the Hollywood Hills to North Hollywood. This leg of the Red Line is expected to open in 2001.

Future expansion of the Red Line is planned from Wilshire/Western southwest to Pico/San Vicente, and from Union Station to Whittier/Atlantic in East Los Angeles.

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