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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MTA RESUMES WORK UNDER HOLLYWOOD FREEWAY AS CALTRANS APPROVES REVISED WORK PLAN, LIFTS STOP WORK ORDER**

Caltrans has approved MTA's revised work plan for tunneling beneath the Hollywood Freeway. The approval allows MTA to resume excavation of two starter tunnels under the freeway at Lankershim Boulevard.

Work resumed this afternoon.

"We're pleased to get the go-ahead to resume work," said Joe Drew, MTA CEO. "Public safety is our number one goal, and our commitment to Caltrans and the public was, and continues to be that we will be cautious, responsible, and careful as this work proceeds."

MTA and contractor personnel conferred with Caltrans officials to discuss the proposal, referred to as the Pavement Settlement Mitigation Plan, which includes several features designed to control settlement and address concerns regarding proper drainage of the freeway. The main points of the plan, approved by Caltrans, are:

- Expanded surveying program;
- Installation of additional support struts in the north access shaft;
- Installation of a 12" thick concrete slab at the base of both starter tunnels, to be placed as the tunnels are excavated;

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- Installation of horizontal steel bars through the earth between the starter tunnels, to further stiffen the tunnel structures;
- Installation of shotcrete between the vertical supports at the crossover portal to further stiffen the tunnel structures;
- To ensure proper drainage, the freeway surfaces in the area of the tunnels will be paved to restore the surface to its original level. The resurfacing will begin in about two weeks, and will be done during nights and/or weekends.

"These actions were designed to provide additional support to the entire tunnel area and ensure proper drainage of the roadway," said Stan Phernambucq, MTA executive for construction. "This should provide us and Caltrans the protection we need to move forward with tunneling."

Caltrans asked for work to temporarily cease when settlement at three of 200 survey points exceeded permitted levels of 3.5 inches.

The Hollywood Freeway has remained open to traffic, and according to Caltrans and MTA engineers, remains absolutely safe for normal vehicle traffic.