



# NEWS

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## **HOUSE AND SENATE APPROVE FUNDING FOR NORTH HOLLYWOOD RAIL EXTENSION, BUS AND OTHER TRANSIT PROJECTS**

The Senate today concurred with an earlier vote by the House approving the Fiscal Year 2000 federal transportation appropriations spending bill that earmarks \$50 million for construction of the Metro Red Line subway project. The funds will keep the North Hollywood segment of the subway system from Hollywood/Highland to Universal City and North Hollywood on schedule for service to begin in mid-2000.

The spending bill, which now goes to the President, also includes \$4 million in funding for preliminary engineering, design and environmental work for future fixed guideway projects on the Eastside and Mid-City areas for Los Angeles County.

In addition, the spending package includes \$3 million in funding to assist MTA in complying with the Federal Bus Consent Decree program and implementing the Accelerated Bus Procurement Plan. A total of \$2 million also was earmarked for the MTA's Intelligent Transportation System deployment project and the Job Access and Reverse Commute programs within the Los Angeles County region.

The Intelligent Transportation System project would upgrade technology to better communicate freeway and street traffic conditions to bus operators and transportation agencies and let bus riders know more precisely when their buses are due. The reverse commute program would give residents of inner city and other city neighborhoods better access to suburban jobs by funding transit services from urbanized areas to the suburbs during rush hours. More...

The North Hollywood segment of the Metro Red Line is a 6.3-mile extension that will operate from Hollywood through the Santa Monica Mountains with stations at Universal City and North Hollywood.

Once completed the entire Metro Red Line subway system will span 17.4 miles from Union Station in downtown Los Angeles through the Central Business District to Hollywood, Universal City and North Hollywood in the San Fernando Valley.

Projected ridership on 60-miles of Metro Rail, that will include the Long Beach to Los Angeles Metro Blue Line , the Norwalk to El Segundo Metro Green Line as well as the Metro Red Line subway system when completed next year to North Hollywood, is estimated at 200,000 average weekday boarding passengers.

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