



NEWS

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OPENING OF VERMONT/HOLLYWOOD SUBWAY WILL MEAN CHANGES FOR METRO RAIL COMMUTERS

Metro Red Line passengers will have to rethink some old commuting habits when the subway to Hollywood opens June 12, while Metro Rail rookies will be experiencing a new daily routine.

The 4.6-mile branch line will serve Vermont Avenue stations at Beverly, Santa Monica and Sunset and Hollywood Boulevard stations at Western and Vine. The subway connects at Wilshire/Vermont with the existing eight-station line that serves Union Station, downtown Los Angeles and Wilshire/Western.

With the opening of the new branch line, passengers starting from downtown or the Wilshire corridor will have to be aware of which train they should board to reach Hollywood or the two Wilshire stations west of Vermont. The Metro Red Line will operate alternating service, with every other train slated either for Wilshire/Western or for Hollywood/Vine.

Passengers will be able to distinguish between Hollywood-bound trains and Wilshire/Western-bound trains by the digital headsigns above the operator's station at the front of the train and by digital signs in the middle of each car.

Beginning June 12, the Metro Red Line will operate between the hours of 5 a.m. and 11 p.m. The following schedules will be in effect:

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Trains will serve stations between Union Station and Wilshire/Vermont every 5 minutes at peak hours and every 6 minutes during mid-day hours and on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Nighttime service will operate every 10 minutes.

Trains serving the five Vermont/Hollywood stations, as well as the stations at Wilshire/Normandie and Wilshire/Western, will provide service every 10 minutes during peak hours and every 12 minutes during mid-day and on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Nighttime service will run every 20 minutes.

For many passengers, the Wilshire/Vermont station will be a key junction. Westbound trains and trains headed for Hollywood will use the lower tracks at the two-level station. Eastbound trains and trains coming south from Hollywood will be on the upper-level tracks.

Passengers starting from Wilshire/Western or from Wilshire/Normandie who want to reach stations along Vermont or Hollywood must disembark at Wilshire/Vermont, go downstairs and catch a Hollywood-bound train.

Passengers starting from any of the stations along Hollywood or Vermont who want to reach Wilshire/Normandie or Wilshire/Western also must disembark at Wilshire/Vermont, but must go upstairs to catch a westbound train.

The MTA has adjusted schedules and increased service on Metro Bus lines 207 and 357, serving Western Avenue, and on lines 20, 21, 22, 320 and 322, serving Wilshire Boulevard, to complement the schedules of Metro Red Line trains arriving and departing from the Wilshire/Western station.

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The MTA will celebrate the opening of the Vermont/Hollywood line with a weekend of free service, Saturday, June 12, and Sunday, June 13. On Monday, June 14, the standard \$1.35 cash fare will be in effect. The MTA also sells \$42 monthly passes, \$21 two-week passes, \$11 weekly passes and packages of 10 tokens for \$9 – a \$4.50 savings on the cash fare. In addition, the MTA offers special passes for senior citizens, handicapped persons and students. All passes and tokens also may be used on Metro Buses.

Once the entire subway project is completed in May, 2000, it will serve 16 stations along 17.4 miles of track running 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 lines -- including the Long Beach to downtown Los Angeles Metro Blue Line, the Norwalk to El Segundo Metro Green Line and the Metro Red Line, when completed to North Hollywood -- is estimated at 200,000 boarding passengers each weekday.

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