



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VERMONT/HOLLYWOOD LINE TESTING STARTS APRIL 24; SCHEDULE WILL AFFECT SERVICE TO WILSHIRE/WESTERN

Final preparations for opening a new 4.6-mile segment of the Metro Red Line subway will begin Saturday, April 24, with the start of full-scale train schedule testing operations between Wilshire/Vermont and Hollywood/Vine.

Although the subway will operate a regular schedule on the new five-station branch line starting April 24, the trains will not carry passengers to those stations until the public opening June 12. The test schedule will affect service to Wilshire/Normandie and Wilshire/Western.

Currently, Metro Red Line trains provide service to the eight existing stations between Union Station and Wilshire/Western every five minutes during peak hours and every 10 minutes during off-peak daytime hours. Beginning April 24, trains will serve the Wilshire/Normandie and Wilshire/Western stations every 10 minutes during peak hours and every 12 minutes during off-peak daytime hours.

Under the test schedule, every other train leaving Union Station will be routed through to Hollywood/Vine after serving downtown stations. West-bound passengers on Hollywood/Vine trains will be discharged at Wilshire/Vermont during the test period. Trains returning from Hollywood will embark passengers again at Wilshire/Vermont for the east-bound trip.

Trains headed for Wilshire/Western will stop, as usual, at Wilshire/Vermont before continuing west. Test train passengers discharged at Wilshire/Vermont will be able to board the next west-bound train.

MORE

PAGE 2, HOLLYWOOD TRAIN TESTING

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

The Metro Red Line will continue to provide service every five minutes during peak hours from Union Station, Civic Center, Pershing Square, 7th Street and Metro, Westlake/ MacArthur Park and Wilshire/Vermont. Passengers will see an improvement in daytime off-peak service when the time between trains is reduced from 10 minutes to six minutes. Nighttime service for all stations will remain at 20 minutes.

The MTA will begin an education effort in March to acquaint the public with the new schedule.

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

The Hollywood leg of the Metro Red Line subway will consist of five stations at Vermont/Beverly, Vermont/Santa Monica, Vermont/Sunset, Hollywood/Western and Hollywood/Vine. Completion is scheduled for early June and will expand the Metro Red Line to 11.1-miles.

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.

MORE

PAGE 3, HOLLYWOOD TRAIN TESTING

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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