

## MTA to Reach Important Milestone at Universal City Station In September

**Universal City Station** -- This is an artist's rendering of the completed Universal City Station showing Metro Red Line entrances, bus plaza and parking lots. A six-lane overpass will connect Lankershim Boulevard, bottom, with Ventura Blvd.

(August 31) Metro Construction will reach an important milestone in September when it gives a contractor notice to proceed on a major construction project at the Metro Red Line Universal City Station.

Groundbreaking on the \$27.9 million project to construct parking lots, a bus plaza and a six-lane overpass above I-101 is expected in October, says MTA Engineering Project Manager Girish Roy. Taking priority in the project will be the 24-space bus plaza, two parking lots with a total of 516 spaces and a kiss-n-ride plaza. These portions of the project should be completed in time for the opening of the North Hollywood segment in May, 2000.

(Animated illustration shows system for drilling pilings for overpass bridge buttresses. This method will reduce noises created by pile drivers that might affect nearby residents during construction.)

The quarter-mile highway overpass, which will connect Lankershim and Ventura boulevards, is set for opening in December, 2000, according to Roy. The overpass will include on- and off-ramps for westbound I-101.

Caltrans has agreed to permit weekend, nighttime closing of freeway lanes during demolition of the existing two-lane overpass and during certain stages of construction.

MTA staff involved in the project include Laura Mohr, engineering project manager; Barbara Gatewood, senior contract administrator; John Higgins, third-party coordinator; and John Mazarella, public affairs officer.

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