

Metro Rail Project Marks Two Milestones; Testing of Last Major Phase begins Monday

(October 22) A subway train marked two major milestones toward completion of the Metro Red Line to North Hollywood late Thursday, while setting the stage for the last major test phase prior to pre-revenue service.

The four-car train, driven by Rail TOS Ricardo Perez, was the first to be powered up on the new 6.3-mile section of track that links Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley. Its journey through the tunnels, crossovers and tail tracks during a seven-hour test also showed that trains will be able to operate with positive clearances, according to Rail Activation Manager Lee Agee.

On Monday, Oct. 25, testing of the Automatic Train Control System is scheduled to begin. The system ensures train separation and prevents over-speeding, among other safety measures. Although many other tests will be conducted before pre-revenue service starts next March, this will be the last of the major systems to be tested, Agee says.

The rail startup team threw the switch late Sunday, Oct. 17, that for the first time electrified the third rail in the Segment 3 tunnels.

The opening of Segment 3 in mid-2000 will expand the Metro Red Line system to 17.4 miles. The new section includes three stations at Hollywood/Highland, Universal City and North Hollywood.

[Back to MTA Report](#)