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LA Times Names MTA's Dennis Mori as Person 'Who Will Make News in 2000'

(Jan. 4) When the LA Times selected the MTA's Dennis Mori as one of the 10 "People Who Will Make News in 2000" in the San Fernando Valley, they weren't kidding.

Mori, 46, is deputy executive officer and project manager for the Metro Red Line's 6.3-mile North Hollywood Extension. He heads a Metro Construction team that will oversee completion in mid-2000 of what - for the foreseeable future - will be the final leg of the subway and the one that opens up the San Fernando Valley to MTA

commuter rail.

A commuter's dream

"It's going to be a commuter's dream," Mori told the Times. "On the freeway, you have no control over traffic. Our trains run like clockwork. They're a consistent, reliable method of travel that will give people more time out of their cars and more time to be with family and friends."

Currently, the \$1.3 billion project is on track. Construction work in all three stations - Hollywood/Highland, Universal City and North Hollywood - has been completed and site restoration work for parking lots, bus and entrance plazas is beginning. Testing is being performed on underground systems, trains and train controls.

The next big milestone, slated for April, is pre-revenue operation of trains.

Longest continuous stretch

The most unusual feature of the subway line between Hollywood and North Hollywood is the 3.1 miles of tunnels between Hollywood/Highland and Universal City. Most of it lies beneath the Santa Monica Mountains and is the longest continuous stretch in the subway system.

With completion of the North Hollywood Extension, the MTA will operate 59.4 miles of rail service with 50 stations. In 2003, the planned opening of the Metro Blue Line to Pasadena will add another 13.7 miles of rail line.

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