

Updated Feb. 17.

(Feb. 16) The Los Angeles City Council approved a motion, Wednesday, to allocate another \$34 million in previously committed transit tax funds toward construction of the Metro Red Line's North Hollywood extension.

The Council's approved report recommends that the city pay the MTA the balance in increments from the FY 2000 through FY 2005 budgets. The city's contribution to the subway project now will total \$92 million.

The payments would be contingent upon the MTA's providing 250 parking spaces at the Universal City station in time for the opening of the new line this summer.

The measure was passed on a motion by Council Member Hal Bernson, also an MTA director. MTA Construction officials are confident that at least 250 parking spaces will be available to the public on opening day.

Parking lot work began recently

Although the Universal City subway station, itself, is virtually complete, MTA contractors only recently began work on the 437-space parking lot, kiss 'n ride plaza and 24-space bus plaza. The \$27.9 million project also will include a six-lane overpass over the 101 Freeway.

Station neighbors have expressed concern about traffic and the availability of off-street parking after the opening of the North Hollywood extension.

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The council motion also directed the LADOT to report within 30 days on the schedule for completing traffic signals and street improvements near the station.

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