Board Ensures Late-Night Service for Staples, Music Center Patrons

(Feb. 28) The MTA Board has Read extended a pilot project that <u>News</u> <u>Release</u> (Feb. 25) will assure late-night Metro Rail service for patrons for attending events at the details on Staples Center and Music the pilot project Center. Originally planned for Metro Rail April through June, the pilot schedule. project now will run through

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September.

Extending the pilot project for three months means that the new late-night service also will be offered at Metro Red Line stations scheduled to open this summer - Hollywood/Highland, Universal City and North Hollywood. Extension of the project beyond September, 2000, will depend on ridership demand.

300-500 more boardings

To date, the MTA has experienced approximately 300-500 additional boardings on the Metro Blue Line following sporting events at Staples Center. Ridership on Metro Buses operating near Staples Center also has increased.

The pilot project will cost approximately \$160,000 to operate from April through the end of the fiscal year, June 30. Extending the pilot project through September will cost approximately \$195,000, or \$780,000 if the additional service is funded through the end of FY 2001.

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