

## **Board Approves Free Rides on NoHo Subway, Rapid Bus System**

By GARY WOSK

(March 23) The Board has approved free rides on the entire Metro Red Line subway system for the weekend of June 24/25 when Metro Rail expands to the San Fernando Valley. The Board also approved free fare for one week on two new innovative Metro Rapid bus lines, also making their debut June 24.

The 6.3 mile expansion of the subway will link downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood with the San Fernando Valley. The subway will expand from its current 11.1 mile length and 13 stations to a total of 17.4 miles and 16 stations.

### **Service to cut travel time**

The Metro Rapid Bus demonstration project will cut the travel time of passengers commuting across the San Fernando Valley and the LA Basin by as much as 25 percent. It will complement service on the nearly 60-mile Metro Rail system. Buses equipped with loop-transponder detectors will lengthen green signals up to 10 seconds to allow buses to continue without stopping.

The 26-mile Metro Rapid Bus route in the LA Basin will traverse the Whittier/Wilshire Corridor from Montebello to Santa Monica, and will include stops at the Wilshire/Western, Wilshire/Normandie, Wilshire/Vermont and Westlake/MacArthur Park Metro Red Line stations.

In the San Fernando Valley, a 16-mile Metro Rapid Bus route will extend along Ventura Boulevard between Warner Center and the Universal City Metro Red Line station.

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