

Universal City Station a Big Hit with 20 Foreign Journalists

By GARY WOSK

(April 13) They spoke in different languages but expressed the same sentiment: The Universal City Metro Red Line subway station is terrific.

That was the consensus of 20 foreign journalists who were taken on a tour of the station, Wednesday, by Segment 3 Project Manager Dennis Mori and John Mazzarella of Public Affairs.

The journalists, representing some of the largest media outlets in their countries of Mexico, England and Japan, were brought to the station by Universal Studios who invited the group to attend a celebration at the expanded City Walk.



Foreign journalists interview Segment 3 Project Manager Dennis Mori, above, and John Mazzarella of Public Affairs, below. PHOTOS BY JOSÉ UBALDO.



Impressed with history text

A reporter with the largest newspaper in England was particularly impressed by four platform columns that tell the story of California's history through colorful hand-made, sculptured tiles that feature narrative text, visual symbols and large portraits of people who played a key role.

"It is very pleasant to look at - highly sophisticated," said Sophie Sturt of the *News of the World*. "When you're waiting for the train you can have a good read. I really like the cultural splash."

Yet another English reporter was smitten by the sights and, especially, by the dimensions.

"It is highly impressive," remarked Paul Taylor, a Manchester *Evening News* features reporter. "I must say that it seems more spacious than most stations in England, including the size of the platform

and height of the ceiling."

A special experience

Takako Suzuki of Japan's *Roadshow Magazine* called the tour "a special experience, very unusual." Reporters from TV Azteca in Mexico were impressed by the station's safety elements.

According to Gail Hermano, a spokesperson with Universal Studios Hollywood, the juxtaposition of the theme park, including City Walk, with the Metro Red Line is an ideal situation that will help her organization attract more visitors and help the MTA encourage new transit users.

"The subway will definitely enhance the vacation experience and, hopefully, residents of Los Angeles County will decide to give public transit a try," she said.

Also taking part in the tour were MTA Media Relations staffers who handed out new Metro Rail North Hollywood press kits to the journalists for their use in writing articles about the subway when they return home.

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