

Pre-Revenue Service to NoHo Will Include Metro Red Line Firsts



(April 26) At 3:30 a.m., Sunday, a Metro Red Line train will leave Union Station en route to the San Fernando Valley. The departure of that train will start the clock ticking on an eight-week period of pre-revenue service leading to the public opening, June 24, of the North Hollywood segment.

Pre-revenue service is scheduled as an opportunity to train operators and tweak the planned service schedule for a new stretch of track, according to Jess Diaz, Rail Transportation Superintendent on Segment 3. But, the pre-revenue period for North Hollywood also will feature some Metro Red Line firsts.

Trains will hit 70 mph

For one thing, there's that three-mile run under the Santa Monica Mountains between Hollywood/Highland and Universal City. For several minutes, the trains will be able to hit 70 mph. The current top speed elsewhere on the subway line is 55 mph.

"No matter how fast your car is," says Diaz, "you can't get through Cahuenga Pass faster than our trains can." The 16-mile ride from North Hollywood to Union Station - with stops at 12 stations in between - will take only 29 minutes.

Six-car trains for NoHo run

Then, there's the scheduled use of six-car trains. At some point during pre-rev, two extra cars will be added for the run to North Hollywood. The six-car trains - each 450 feet long - will stretch from one end to the other of the station platforms. Operators, who are used to four-car and even two-car trains, during pre-rev must become accustomed to stopping at the proper mark.

During pre-rev, passengers on the North Hollywood trains will be required to disembark at Hollywood/Vine. Four-car trains will continue to be scheduled to Wilshire/Western.

A VIP opening ceremony for the North Hollywood extension is planned Friday, June 23, with the public opening on Saturday and Sunday, June 24-25. The Board has approved free rides on the entire Metro Red Line subway system for the opening weekend.

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