



YOU CAN GET THERE FROM HERE -- Ralph de la Cruz, deputy executive officer, Rail Operations, at left, speaks at opening festivities for new pedestrian crossing in Compton. The crossing provides pedestrians more direct and safer access to hotel and other destinations on the east side of the station.

## **MTA, Crystal Park Casino Open Metro Blue Line Crossing in Compton**

By ED SCANNELL

(Jan. 17) The MTA and the Crystal Park Casino Hotel held festivities at the nearby Metro Blue Line Artesia station today to mark the opening of a pedestrian crossing. The crossing will greatly improve access to one of the City of Compton's largest private employers.

Prior to construction of the new gated crossing, Metro Blue Line passengers and bus passengers arriving at a park and ride lot on the west side of the tracks were forced to make a circuitous walk to the hotel via the Artesia Boulevard overpass. The new crossing provides pedestrians more direct and safer access to the hotel and other destinations on the east side of the station.

Design and construction of the crossing was financed through a \$100,000 grant awarded by the MTA to the City of Compton in the 1997 Call for Projects and a local match of \$25,000 provided by the hotel.

"Accessibility is key to increasing the use of public transit," said Ralph de la Cruz, deputy executive officer, Rail Operations. "The new pedestrian crossing is an excellent example of how a public/private partnership can benefit transit users and better serve employment centers, places of recreation and many other destinations."

### **Hotel employs 479**

Crystal Park Casino Hotel employs 479 people. In addition to its 237 rooms, the hotel features live entertainment and includes one of the largest banquet facilities in the City of Compton.

For several years, many area residents, Metro Blue Line passengers, patrons of the hotel and other nearby destinations climbed over a steep embankment in an effort to shorten their walk to the east side of the Metro Blue Line tracks. The new pedestrian crossing makes this long and difficult walk unnecessary.

In addition to the accessibility it provides, the crossing was constructed with safety in mind. It includes a flashing signal to warn pedestrians of an approaching train, safety barrier pedestrian gates and a sloping ramp to the parking lot of the hotel.

"The new crossing provides a safe and short walk to and from the station for local residents and patrons of our hotel," said Leo Chu, owner of Crystal Park Casino Hotel. "We are pleased to have worked with the MTA on a project that will benefit both our property and many of the people who use the Artesia station every day."

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