

## High School, Housing Development Set Near NoHo Metro Station

- **MTA Joins City, LAUSD and CRA for Project**

By ELIZABETH KALTMAN

(Sept. 3, 2003) Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn, along with representatives of LAUSD, the Community Redevelopment Agency and MTA announced an agreement, Tuesday, to facilitate construction of a much-needed high school and housing development in North Hollywood.

LAUSD, CRA and MTA own property on the NoHo Commons project site. Under the agreement, the MTA-owned Chandler right-of-way that runs through the NoHo Commons redevelopment site will be relocated.

The agreement is based on a common goal of all the agencies involved to strategically plan and coordinate development projects to build schools and revitalize Los Angeles neighborhoods, while maintaining MTA's rail corridor. Groundbreaking is expected in early 2004, with possible project completion in mid-2006.

A major element of NoHo Commons will be a new high school that will serve nearly 2,000 students and alleviate overcrowding at Grant and North Hollywood high schools.

The adjacent \$218-million complex will include new residential units, retail and commercial office space, and community space near the North Hollywood Metro Red Line station and the San Fernando Valley Metro Rapidway station.

### Engineering Challenges

Despite engineering challenges for MTA, the realignment of the Chandler right-of-way will help create a far superior housing project and school site and establish a more balanced approach to the planning of the entire community.

"By agreeing to move the MTA right-of-way, we are sending a message to students, residents and business owners in North Hollywood that the health and vibrancy of this neighborhood is important to all of us," said Hahn.

"The NoHo Commons redevelopment is a key component among the efforts underway to revitalize North Hollywood," CEO Roger Snoble said in a statement. "MTA is pleased to facilitate construction of the high school and housing development, which we know will be excellent contributions to the community."

MTA Chief of Staff Maria Guerra, who spoke at the event, said, "As we continue to expand the transit system, MTA envisions developments that will make the areas around transit stations livable and sustainable communities."

"Development of the NoHo Commons with a housing component and high school together, which are located near a transportation portal, the Red Line, is smart urban development," said LA City Councilman and MTA Board Member Tom LaBonge, whose district includes NoHo

Commons. "This is a great example of public agencies working cooperatively for the greater benefit."

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