

**DRAFT**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**EXCAVATION RESUMES IN HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD TUNNEL**

Excavation of the Metro Rail Number 2 (south) tunnel beneath Hollywood Boulevard resumed today after a two-week pause in the project.

Tunneling was halted, Feb. 8, when ground subsidence behind the machine surpassed 1.5 inches. Additional compaction and chemical grouting was inserted into the ground above the machine to minimize further subsidence. Settlement has stabilized at about two inches (2.028 inches).

"All parties involved in the decision to resume tunneling agree that the additional grouting has made a difference in underground conditions," said Charles Stark, MTA project manager.

When tunneling resumed today, the south machine was some 120 feet east of Cherokee Avenue, about three blocks east of Highland Avenue. In the vicinity of Highland Avenue, the machine will begin digging out of the loose, sandy "young alluvium" formation and into the "old alluvium," a harder, more compact formation.

The machine digging the Number 1 (north) tunnel is located some 220 feet west of Orange Drive North, <sup>WEST OF</sup> ~~near~~ Mann's Chinese Theater and the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. Extensive chemical grouting has been inserted to minimize settlement in the street fronting the two properties and <sup>MINIMAL</sup> ~~the~~ ground subsidence has been noted.

Excavation of the Number 1 (north) tunnel will resume when remedial work in that tunnel -- replacement of wooden wedges with steel struts -- has been completed.

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