



NEWS

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MEDIA ADVISORY

PLYING THROUGH THE TUNNELS UNDER THE STREETS OF LOS ANGELES:
**METRO RED LINE OPERATOR JOE ELLIS TO REVEAL SECRETS OF
SUBWAY SUCCESS AS HE PREPARES FOR 15,000TH ROUNDTRIP**

WHAT: A still relatively new phenomenon on the Southern California transportation landscape is the Metro Red Line subway — 6.5 miles long to date and growing — though most in L.A. now know it exists. However, most who use the subway still wonder just who are the enigmatic 24 men and women who safely guide their colossal 160-ton trains. Red Line operators are hidden away in compressed cabs and have little or no interaction with their passengers. For the most part they are in complete isolation. Very few are cut out for this lonely, monotonous existence. One individual who fits the mold is Joe Ellis, a 28-year veteran of the MTA who switched from Metro Bus operator to Metro Rail operator seven years ago. He is number one in train operator seniority and sometime this week the 54-year-old Ellis will achieve a milestone — he'll complete his 15,000th roundtrip. He's traveled enough miles to make it to the moon and halfway back. When you ride along with Ellis you'll learn first-hand what techniques he's developed over the years that help him better cope with the seemingly infinite gray surroundings, avoid boredom and remain focused — it's a lot harder than it looks. Also learn about the vigorous training Metro Red Line candidates receive in order to make the grade — not everyone makes it.

WHEN: Today through August 22.

WHO: Meet the one-and-only Joe Ellis and tour his mysterious world.

CONTACT: To arrange a ride-along, Monday through Friday 6 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., call Gary Wosk at (213) 922-2712.

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