



# NEWS

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CONTACT: RICK JAGER/MARC LITTMAN  
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS  
(213) 922-2707/922-2700  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TRAIN TESTING NOW UNDERWAY IN HOLLYWOOD**

**METRO RED LINE TRAIN TESTING PROCEEDING AS PLANNED; SUBWAY PROJECT WILL SERVE AS ECONOMIC CATALYST TO HOLLYWOOD**

When MTA's Metro Red Line subway project is completed next year to Hollywood and Vine it will serve as an economic catalyst to the area and spur major joint development by bringing thousands of visitors to Hollywood.

The Hollywood leg of the Metro Red Line will consist of five stations at Vermont/Beverly, Vermont/Santa Monica, Vermont/Sunset, Hollywood/Western and Hollywood/Vine. Completion is scheduled for May 1999 and will expand the Metro Red Line to 11.1-miles.

MTA's rail startup team has been busy for the last three months testing Metro Red Line trains beneath Vermont Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard in preparation of the Hollywood segment opening to the public next year.

In early September, the rail startup crew energized the third rail beneath Vermont Avenue and began testing train cars that will, ultimately, carry thousands of passengers to and from the Hollywood area.

This latest construction milestone of testing the subway trains beneath Hollywood Boulevard signals a major accomplishment in the completion of the Hollywood segment of the Metro Red Line.

In testing the train, the third rail is energized to ensure that its capacity to supply the electric current is sufficient to power the Metro Red Line cars down the tracks. In addition, the testing is conducted to make sure that the "third rail shoe" on each rail car is at the proper height to draw current from the rail.

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All testing of the Metro Red Line trains is being conducted between the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 5 a.m. after which the third rail is de-energized and grounded as a safety precaution to allow other startup related work to resume. In addition, security on the project has been increased.

Metro Rail has already sparked redevelopment in downtown Los Angeles, along Wilshire Boulevard, Vermont Avenue, Hollywood Boulevard and in North Hollywood.

A 1.2 million square foot entertainment/hotel/retail complex will be constructed by TrizecHahn Centers above MTA's Metro Red Line subway station at Hollywood and Highland boulevards. This development alone is a prime example of how Metro Rail is an economic catalyst.

Among additional joint development proposals being developed would bring a giant entertainment industry complex and film studios to North Hollywood adjacent to the Metro Red Line Station in the San Fernando Valley.

The 6.3-mile North Hollywood Extension, which will extend subway service from Hollywood/Vine to Universal City and Lankershim and Chandler in North Hollywood, is due to open in May 2000.

The entire Metro Rail system, once completed, will span nearly 60 miles, connecting Long Beach, Norwalk, El Segundo, Los Angeles, Hollywood, Universal City and North Hollywood and offer a wide range of travel opportunities for Southland residents and visitors.

Ridership on the completed Metro Rail system in May 2000 is expected to reach 200,000 boarding passengers each weekday.

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