



NEWS

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CONTACT: GARY WOSK/MARC LITTMAN
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2712/922-2700
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA BOARD APPROVES FREE RIDES ON SUBWAY DURING OPENING DAY WEEKEND OF HOLLYWOOD EXTENSION

The MTA Board today invited all of Los Angeles County to partake in the grand opening celebration of the 4.6 mile extension of the subway to Hollywood by approving free rides on the entire Metro Rail subway Saturday and Sunday, June 12 and 13. Fares, however, will still be collected for travel aboard the Metro Bus system and the light rail Metro Blue and Green lines.

In addition to free rides — available from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. — special family events and entertainment are scheduled at each of the five new stations on both days. Souvenirs, including a limited supply of commemorative posters created by the art department of L.A. City College, also can be obtained.

The two-day offer to ride the entire 11.1-mile Metro Red Line is a perfect opportunity for people of all ages to discover the wonders of rail travel and experience the excitement of distinctively designed stations. In addition, the subway provides service to such popular destinations as the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Pantages Theatre, Olvera Street, L.A. Children's Museum, the Music Center and Museum of Contemporary Art, and many others.

The new Hollywood leg of the Metro Red Line is a major extension of the current operating subway which travels from Union Station to Wilshire and Western. For the first time, service will branch with trains heading north up Vermont Avenue to Hollywood Boulevard. The five new Metro Rail stations are located on Vermont at Beverly, Santa Monica and Sunset, and along Hollywood Boulevard at Western and Vine.

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Besides delivering riders to Hollywood's world famous attractions, Metro Rail will begin serving many other major destinations such as Children's Hospital, Kaiser Permanente Foundation Hospital, Queen of Angels, Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, Los Angeles City College and the Braille Institute.

The five new subway stations will be worth visiting themselves. Each station was designed by collaborative teams of architects and artists. They feature unique artwork from a movie motif at the Hollywood/Vine station to huge faux boulders suspended above the platform at the Vermont/Beverly station.

It is important to note that the subway is an integral part of the overall Metro Rail system that includes the light rail Metro Blue and Green lines, which connect downtown Los Angeles with Long Beach and El Segundo and Norwalk. All three rail lines are interconnected. The 416 mile Metrolink commuter rail system to outlying counties also connects with Metro Rail at Union Station downtown.

In May 2000, the MTA is scheduled to open a 6.3 mile extension of the subway with stops at Hollywood/Highland, Universal City and North Hollywood. At that point, the subway will span 17.4 miles with 16 stations. The overall Metro Rail system in Los Angeles County then will include 59.4 miles of track and 50 stations.

The regular Metro Rail fare is \$1.35 for adults, children under five years of age ride for free (limit two children per adult). Transferring to the Metro Bus system or light rail Metro Blue and Green lines costs 25 cents. Fare for senior and disabled persons is 45 cents, 10 cents for a transfer. Monthly passes and discount fare tokens are also sold.

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