



NEWS

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MAJOR METRO RED LINE CONSTRUCTION MILESTONE ACHIEVED

**MTA TURNS ON THE ELECTRICAL JUICE TO THE THIRD RAIL OF THE
NORTH HOLLYWOOD METRO RED LINE SUBWAY EXTENSION**

MTA's Metro Red Line subway startup team threw the electric switch on Sunday night and sent 750 volts of direct current through the third rail of the entire new 6.3-mile section of the Metro Red Line's North Hollywood Segment between Hollywood and North Hollywood.

This latest construction milestone signals the beginning of months of testing on the North Hollywood segment of the subway and the start of eventual revenue service next year between the line's Hollywood/Vine Station and the North Hollywood Station in the San Fernando Valley.

"Energizing the third rail is a very significant milestone for construction," said Lee Agee, MTA startup program manager. "It's the beginning of the end of construction on the project and the start towards revenue service ."

Testing of the third rail will encompass a variety of elements including a test for its capacity to supply the electric current needed to power the Metro Red Line cars down the tracks and to make sure that the "third rail shoe" on each rail car is at the proper height to draw current from the rail.

All testing will take place between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. after which time the third rail will be de-energized as a safety precaution to allow other startup related work to resume. In addition, security on the project has been increased.

More...

The opening of the North Hollywood Extension in mid-2000 will expand the Metro Red Line subway to 17.4 miles. There will be three new stations along the extension including a station at Hollywood/Highland, Universal City and North Hollywood.

This past summer, the Hollywood Extension of the Metro Red Line opened to the public.

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