

April 18, 1997 CONTACT: MARY ANN MASKERY/ JIM SMART MTA MEDIA RELATIONS (213) 922-2736/922-2700 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY OF LOS ANGELES HONORS MTA STAFF FOR WORK IN HOLLYWOOD

The City of Los Angeles today honored MTA staff for their "outstanding work" in Hollywood.

"I have often been a critic of MTA in the past," said Councilmember Jackie Goldberg in presenting Certificates of Commendation. "But when people at MTA do a good job for the public, they deserve our praise and our thanks."

Charles Stark, Interim MTA Executive Officer for Construction, was acknowledged for his "intelligence and leadership" in helping produce what was called a "win-win solution for the Hollywood community, taxpayers, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority."

The commendations honored an arrangement with the businesses and property owners in Hollywood that would allow longer hours of construction which will shorten construction by several months and save the public at least \$3 million. The agreement followed extensive discussion with the community.

The City also honored Steven Sawyer, Senior Public Affairs Officer for Metro Red Line Construction, for his "creativity, perspicacity, and perseverance in finding a win-win solution that gives fair compensation to Hollywood Boulevard merchants, shortens construction time, and generates savings for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

"We are working to keep open lines of communication with the community," said Interim MTA CEO Linda Bohlinger. "We are pleased to see this recognition for MTA staff who have worked hard and continue to work hard to meet the needs of the community."