



NEWS

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INSTALLATION OF SUBWAY TRACK IN VALLEY CALLED TURNING POINT

The MTA has begun installing track on the Metro Red Line subway extension to North Hollywood.

With 65 percent of the work on the MTA's 6.3-mile Metro Red Line subway extension to North Hollywood done, installation of rail represents a major new phase in the project.

"This new chapter in construction is a milestone because it means the most difficult part of the operation, building twin tunnels hundreds of feet below the surface of the earth, is over with," said Charles Stark, MTA Executive Officer Construction. "When the segment opens in the year 2000, the sight of subway cars carrying thousands of people everyday in the San Fernando Valley will become commonplace, just as it is in downtown Los Angeles where close to 35,000 people board the subway every weekday."

Herzog Contracting expects to finish the \$20 million track installation project by January 1999. A maximum of six 720-foot sections can be installed every day.

Metro Red Line trains now operate between downtown Los Angeles at Union Station to Wilshire at Western Avenue. By mid-1999 service on the line will be extended north beneath Vermont to Hollywood and west beneath Hollywood Boulevard to Vine. Metro Red Line ridership is expected to double soon after service is extended to Hollywood.

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