



OPENING 1999

# NEWS

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***PUBLIC GRAND OPENING SATURDAY, JUNE 12***

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS, CELEBRITIES TAKE INAUGURAL RIDE ON NEW METRO RED LINE HOLLYWOOD EXTENSION**

The new Metro Red Line subway extension to the Vermont corridor and Hollywood was officially dedicated today by local, state and federal officials headed by Los Angeles Mayor and MTA Board Chairman Richard Riordan along with an array of celebrities and other VIP guests.

"The Hollywood extension marks an important milestone for the MTA and a new chapter in the Hollywood Renaissance," said Mayor Riordan. "The new Hollywood Metro Red Line will take Angelenos to and from the fourth largest employment center in Southern California, and provide service through one of our City's premiere tourist destinations, the entertainment capital of the world -- Hollywood."

The public grand opening is Saturday, June 12. Free rides will be offered this Saturday and Sunday on the Metro Red Line from Union Station downtown to Hollywood and Vine. Family entertainment is scheduled both days at the five new subway stations along Vermont and Hollywood boulevards.

The MTA will, literally, bring the world to Hollywood's doorstep. The subway already is changing the face of Hollywood, acting as a catalyst for economic development, but its impact transcends Hollywood.

This latest expansion of the Metro Rail system will enable passengers to travel from the downtown civic center to Hollywood in just 15 minutes and will give the transit dependent, commuters, tourists and others easy and convenient access to major job centers, schools, hospitals, sports, entertainment, and cultural venues throughout Los Angeles County.

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The Metro Red Line will complement the Metro bus system, which is undergoing a major overhaul, and it will help thwart gridlock on local streets and freeways as the county braces for massive population growth during the next two decades.

The new 4.6 mile 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.

There will be five new Metro Rail stations including stops along Vermont at Beverly, Santa Monica, and Sunset and along Hollywood Boulevard at Western and Vine.

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 station 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 two light rail lines connecting downtown Los Angeles and 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 and so does AMTRAK.

More...

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.

In the Year 2000, Metro Rail average weekday ridership is projected to be 200,000 boardings. The subway portion, alone, will account for 125,000 of those boardings.

Metro Rail ranks as one of the largest public works projects ever undertaken in the United States. Subway construction got underway in 1986 and is being built in phases. The downtown segment opened in January 1993. Construction of the Hollywood leg started in 1994.

Construction of Metro Red Line Segment 2, which includes the 2.1 mile Wilshire extension which opened in July 1996 and the 4.6 mile Hollywood leg, which opens this weekend, will cost \$1.74 billion, however, the project already is paying economic dividends.

More than 100,000 jobs have been created. Many of these are construction related, however, the Metro Rail expenditures – financed with both local transit tax dollars and state and federal monies – has given the Los Angeles economy a shot in the arm and that, in turn, has generated new jobs.

The Metro Rail stations are prime sites for joint economic development. New development valued at more than \$1 billion has been built, is under construction or is planned around Metro Rail stations including a new home for the Oscars above the subway stop at Hollywood and Highland on land MTA is leasing to a private developer.

For more information about Metro Rail, connections with the Metro Bus system and other public transit in Los Angeles County, call 1-800-COMMUTE or check MTA's Internet site at [www.mta.net](http://www.mta.net).