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PUBLIC GRAND OPENING SATURDAY, JUNE 24

**ELECTED OFFICIALS, CELEBRITIES DEDICATE NEW
METRO RAIL EXTENSION TO NORTH HOLLYWOOD**

Calling it the capstone of a rail rapid transit system crisscrossing Los Angeles County, an array of local, state and federal officials and celebrities today dedicated the new 6.3 mile extension of the Metro Red Line subway that runs from Hollywood to Universal City and North Hollywood.

“With this capstone of the Metro Rail system in place, for the first time, there is a real alternative to commuting by car or truck,” said MTA Board Chairwoman and Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. “This new system also will promote tourism and new business development.”

At the same time that Metro Rail service is expanding, Burke noted that MTA is deploying a record amount of bus service and has already taken delivery of more than 1,000 new compressed natural gas buses.

Free rides will be offered on the Metro Red Line subway this Saturday and Sunday, June 24-25, and there will be free family fun at each of three new Metro Rail stations at Hollywood/Highland, Universal City (on Lankershim Boulevard across from Universal), and at the North Hollywood station at Lankershim and Chandler, the heart of the NoHo Arts District which features more than a dozen live theaters and unique restaurants, coffee houses and boutiques.

On Saturday MTA also will inaugurate its new Metro Rapid bus service on Ventura Boulevard from Warner Center to the new Universal City Metro Rail station and along Wilshire and Whittier Boulevards from Santa Monica to Montebello. These special red and white painted buses make fewer stops and are outfitted with transponders to extend green lights to speed travel time compared to regular local bus service. Free rides on Metro Rapid buses will be offered for a full week starting Saturday.

More...

1st Add/North Hollywood Subway Extension

For details on the Metro Rail and Metro Rapid celebrations, call MTA at 1-800-COMMUTE or check out the MTA web site at www.mta.net.

With the North Hollywood extension, the vision of a subway connecting downtown, Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley will finally be realized although the Metro Rail system of light rail lines that connect with the subway is still evolving. A new 13.7 mile light rail line from Union Station in downtown Los Angeles to Pasadena is being constructed and should open in mid-2003.

The Metro Rail system now has 59.4 miles of rail in service and 50 stations. This includes 17.4 miles of subway with 16 Metro Red Line stations and two light rail lines that are all linked together. The Metro Blue Line connects downtown Los Angeles and Long Beach while the Metro Green Line runs along the median of the Century Freeway and links Norwalk and El Segundo. At Union Station in downtown Los Angeles, the Metro Red Line also hooks up with the 416-mile Metrolink commuter rail network that serves Los Angeles and four outlying counties as well as Amtrak rail service to the rest of the country.

Metro Rail is fast becoming a commuter's dream and a delight for tourists.

Rain or shine, no matter how clogged the streets and freeways, subway users will be able to zip from North Hollywood to the downtown Los Angeles Civic Center in 24 minutes. It's only eight minutes to the Hollywood/Highland station in the heart of Hollywood. Speeding under the Santa Monica Mountains, subway trains will reach speeds of up to 70 miles-per-hour.

This latest expansion of the Metro Rail system will give the transit dependent, commuters, tourists and others easy and convenient access to major job centers, government, schools, hospitals, shopping, sports, entertainment and cultural venues throughout Los Angeles County.

More...

2nd Add/North Hollywood Subway Extension

Tourists can pack more into their itinerary. For example, Metro Rail serves the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, the Watts Towers, Staples Center, all the downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood attractions, Universal City, which is the Southland's most popular tourist destination, and the NoHo Arts District in North Hollywood. Metro Rail also serves LAX airport with a shuttle bus connection to Lot C.

Metro Rail complements the Metro Bus system, which is undergoing a major overhaul. Moreover, at the same time the subway extension opens, MTA will debut its new Metro Rapid buses on Ventura Boulevard in the San Fernando Valley and along Wilshire Boulevard to expedite bus connections to the subway stations.

Modeled after a rapid bus system in Curitiba, Brazil, MTA's Metro Rapid buses will be outfitted with special transmitters to extend green lights, make fewer stops than regular buses, run frequently, utilize new low floor buses and special stations to facilitate passenger loading.

Construction of the Metro Rail subway ranks as one of the nation's largest public works projects. Work began in 1986. More than 100,000 jobs, largely construction related, were generated by this project. Miners removed enough dirt to fill the Rose Bowl in Pasadena 3 ½ times, poured enough concrete in the tunnels to pave a five-foot wide sidewalk from Los Angeles to Boston, and used enough steel to build 90,000 cars.

For more details about the Metro Rail and Metro Bus system, including access to an interactive trip planner, check out MTA's web site at www.mta.net.

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