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## **Councilmembers Approve Plan to Ask Metro to Extend Red Line Subway Hours**

*If approved, the Valley-to-Downtown service would assist riders during the winter holiday season*

**LOS ANGELES (Sept. 17, 2008)** - The Los Angeles City Council today voted unanimously to ask the Metro Board of Directors to extend the popular Red Line subway hours during the upcoming holiday season.

The motion - which was co-sponsored by Councilmember José Huizar, Council President Eric Garcetti and Councilmembers Wendy Greuel and Jan Perry - would extend Red Line hours to 3 a.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from Nov. 1 through Jan. 3.

In these lean economic times, the move is intended to assist residents and employees throughout the City who use the Downtown service during the holidays. The Red Line runs from North Hollywood to Downtown, with several stops in-between, including Hollywood.

“Now that we have more entertainment in the downtown area and we have more residents living here, there's a need not only to make this connection for shoppers and people who want to come over and go to a restaurant or a bar, but also the employees,” said City Councilman José Huizar, who first brought the motion to the Council. “Many of the employees who work downtown and work in Hollywood are looking for a convenient, cheap way to travel.”

(more)

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“With extended Metro Red Line hours, Angelenos will be able to holiday shop-until-they-drop at Hollywood’s many shops, boutiques, and restaurants without the hassles of parking or traffic,” said Council President Eric Garcetti. “The extended hours will give Hollywood theatergoers the option of having dinner or dessert after a show.”

“Extending the hours of the Red Line will help relieve traffic throughout Los Angeles during this hectic holiday season,” said Councilwoman Wendy Greuel, Chair of the City’s Transportation Committee. “We can’t do anything about reducing the lines in stores or cutting the costs of an Xbox, but we can do something about traffic.”

“By extending the Red Line hours during the busy season, we are offering Los Angelenos an opportunity to get out of their cars and use public transportation to access key retail venues throughout our city,” said Councilwoman Jan Perry. “The extended hours are a simple way in which we can help ease traffic during the holiday months.”

Businesses in the Downtown and Hollywood communities have put up around \$50,000 so far to help fund the extended service, which is expected to cost Metro about \$4,500 per day to run.

A task force will soon be convened consisting of Councilmembers whose district include portions of the Red Line, LADOT, METRO and other interested business partners to design a creative and immediate marketing plan to promote the extended service.

The Metro Board is expected to hear the request in time to make a decision before the holiday season.

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