

LETTERS TO THE TIMES

■ Mayor Richard Riordan states, "Quite honestly, I would not have started it [the Los Angeles subway], but once you started it, you've got to finish it." No, you don't. Throwing good money after bad may be good politics, but it is economic gibberish. If we had applied the same rules to the public's money that we apply to our own investments in our private lives, we would have bailed out of the subway project long ago, and the Los Angeles rail system would be a much smaller, much less costly failure.

JAMES E. MOORE II

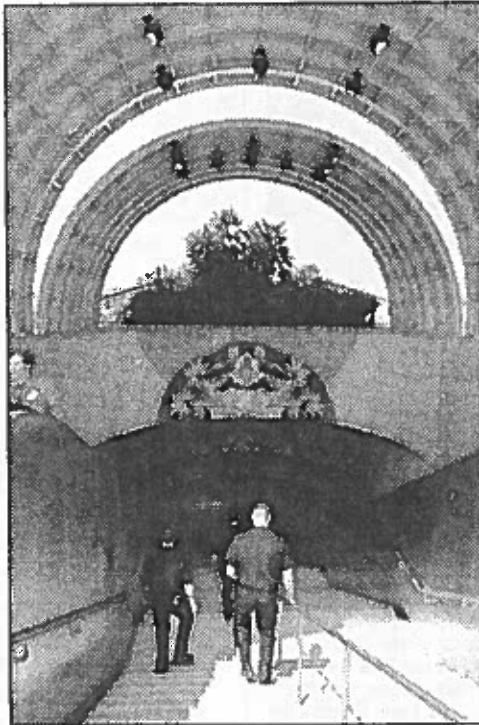
Associate Prof., Civil Engineering
Public Policy & Management, USC

■ It is already being predicted that the new and expensive subway will be a failure, because people won't ride it. Well, they would if it went far enough. Originally, the subway was supposed to extend to Warner Center, cutting across the Valley and providing an alternative to the crowded Ventura Freeway. As it is, it just doesn't give access to enough riders. I hope extension of the subway will be considered to give us a real mass transit opportunity.

ROXANE WINKLER
Sherman Oaks

■ Wow, the subway had 100,000 boardings on Monday (June 27). At \$1.35 each, ignoring operating costs and assuming we have the same number of riders 365 days per year, we will have our investment paid off in only 95 years. And I was skeptical.

JOSEPH AREEDA
Los Angeles



DAVID BOHRER / Los Angeles Times

North Hollywood station

Metro Rail Subway

■ Call me a newborn subway enthusiast. I took advantage of the free glimpse into the underground last Saturday and was in awe of what the MTA has accomplished. For years I have read the skeptical and critical reports of the "subway to nowhere" and I can kick myself for letting the media define my perception of the Red Line. Congratulations to the marketing genius of the MTA to open the system to hundreds of thousands of people to consider how they might make public transportation a part of their lives.

We hopped on at Hollywood and Highland, an exciting portal given the evidence of Hollywood's revival everywhere you look, and rode the train to North Hollywood. We enjoyed a terrific two hours savoring the NoHo Arts Festival and rode the train back—in a mere eight

Los Angeles Times

JOHN P. PUERNER

Publisher, President and Chief Executive Officer

JOHN S. CARROLL
*Editor and
Executive Vice President*

LEO C. WOLINSKY
Executive Editor

JOHN ARTHUR
Managing Editor

KAREN WADA
Managing Editor

FRANK DEL OLMO
Associate Editor

ARDITH HILLIARD
Associate Editor

NARDA ZACCHINO
*Associate Editor and
Vice President*

LEAH M. GENTRY
*Editorial Director,
New Media*

JANET CLAYTON
*Editor of the
Editorial Pages and
Vice President*

ELIZABETH V. DREWRY
*Senior Vice President,
Human Resource*

JAMES D. HELIN
*Senior Vice President,
Chief Marketing Officer*

BONNIE G. HILL
*Senior Vice President,
Communications
and Public Affairs*

JEFFREY M. JOHNSON
*Senior Vice President
and General Manager*

JUDITH S. KALLET
*Senior Vice President and
Chief Information Officer*

MARK H. KURTICH
*Senior Vice President,
Operations*

ROBERT G. MAGNUSON
*Senior Vice President,
Regions*

JOHN C. MCKEON
*Senior Vice President,
Advertising*

JAMES D. SHAW
*Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer*

JULIE K. XANDERS
*Senior Vice President,
General Counsel*

VICE PRESIDENTS
CHRIS K. AVETISIAN
DAVID BARCELLOS

HARRIET BOYD
BEVERLY A. DREHER
EDWARD ENG

MARTHA GOLDSTEIN
KARLENE GOLLER
THOMAS W. KELLY

KIM M. LA FRANCE
STEVEN U. LEE

RAYMOND MCCUTCHEON
CAROL PERRUSO

DENNIS A. SHIRLEY
JULIA C. WILSON

HARRISON GRAY OTIS, *Publisher, 1882-1917*

HARRY CHANDLER, *Publisher, 1917-1944*

NORMAN CHANDLER, *Publisher, 1944-1960*

OTIS CHANDLER, *Publisher, 1960-1980*

TOM JOHNSON, *Publisher, 1980-1989*

DAVID LAVENTHOL, *Publisher, 1989-1994*

RICHARD SCHLOSBERG III, *Publisher, 1994-1997*

MARK H. WILLES, *Publisher, 1997-1999*

KATHRYN M. DOWNING, *Publisher, 1999-2000*