

**Metropolitan Transit Authority**  
1900 Main  
P.O. Box 61429  
Houston, Texas 77208-1429

713-739-4040 [www.ridemetro.org](http://www.ridemetro.org)

Interim President & Chief Executive Officer  
Thomas Lambert

# Media Advisory



**RELEASE DATE: May 23, 2013**  
**CONTACT: Press Office 713.739.4040**

## **MOVING ON UP! North/Red Line To Open Ahead of Schedule** **METRORail to Tug Test Train in Preparation for December 2013 Opening**

The first METRORail train to travel the new [North/Red Line](#) extension will be tugged along the track by a special railcar mover beginning **Tuesday, May 28** as METRO starts testing clearance on the 5.3 mile line. This extension of the currently operating Main St./Red Line is ahead of schedule and more than 80 percent complete. The tracks do not yet have electric power so movement is guided by a shuttlewagon (much like a barge under the assistance of a pilot boat). The clearance testing will run over the course of the week. The train will travel slowly, about three mph, with crews monitoring progress to ensure operational functions (tracks, poles, underground and overhead wiring) are in order before electrical testing begins this summer.

**WHAT:** North Line testing begins when a shuttlewagon tows a light-rail train for clearance testing.

**WHEN:** 2 PM Tuesday, May 28, 2013

**WHERE:** Fulton Street between Hays ([south of Moody Park](#)) and Cavalcade

The METRORail expansion project adds 15.3 miles and 24 stations to its current 7.5-mile Main Street/Red Line. The North/Red Line begins at UH-Downtown and is about 80 percent complete. It will open for passengers in December 2013 - the first of the three new lines currently under construction. This track extends the existing Main Street Line traveling through the historic Northside, a neighborhood that evolved with the expansion of the Hardy Rail Lines in the 1880s.

**EDITORS NOTE:** Please contact the press office at 713-739-4040 if you plan to staff this event

*About METRO* The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County ([METRO](#)) is the region's largest public transit provider, offering safe, reliable and affordable transportation services about 370,000 times per day\*\*. Besides operating more than 1,200 buses, [METRO](#) is currently expanding its 7.5-mile light-rail line (Red Line), with [three new lines](#) under construction. METRO's services also include: [Star Vanpool](#), [METROLift](#), [HOV lanes](#), [HOT lanes](#), [Bikes-on-Buses/Trains](#) program, [Park & Ride](#) and road improvement projects. More information can be found on [ridemetro.org](#).

\*\*Based on boardings per-track mile.

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Shuttlewagon readies to tow first train over North/Red Line extension beginning May 28.