

City News Service

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Construction will begin today on a \$160 million mixed- used development project at the Metro Red Line station at Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue.

The 22-story development -- being built by developer **KOAR** Wilshire Western LLC -- will have 186 condominiums, 40,000 square feet of retail space and 570 parking spaces. It is expected to open in 2008.

Supervisor Gloria Molina, who also chairs the MTA Board, will join Supervisors Yvonne B. Burke and Zev Yaroslavsky, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Councilman Herb Wesson at a news conference later this morning to mark the start of construction.

Private developers, contracting with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, have built several developments at stations along the Metro Red Line. An affordable housing and child care center complex opened at the Hollywood/Western station in 2004, and an apartment development is under construction at the Wilshire/Vermont station.

The MTA's most well-known transit development opened in 2001 at the Hollywood/Highland station. That complex is home to the Kodak Theatre, which hosts the annual Academy Awards ceremony.