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Board's funding plan for the Sepulveda Pass widening project utilizes a combination of federal, state and local funds. Approximately one-third of the funding, or \$372 million, has already been secured for the project – enough money to meet the project's start-up costs for a 15-month period. That includes nearly \$200 million in federal stimulus funds that are available contingent on construction beginning this year. The remaining \$662 million of project funding will be forthcoming from the State pending the sale of transportation bonds delayed by the State's fiscal crisis.

Metro Board Approves Initial Funding for I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project, Purchase of 150 New Buses to be Funded with Stimulus Monies

- **So noted:** The Board of Directors approved a motion that the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension be officially referred to as "La Linea de Oro, Edward R. Roybal" in Spanish and the "Edward R. Roybal Metro Gold Line" in English. County Supervisor and Metro board member Gloria Molina proposed naming the line in Spanish to reflect culture and history of the area served by the Eastside Extension of the Metro Gold Line.

(April 23, 2009) The Metro Board of Directors today voted to fund the first phase of the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project, a critical regional transportation project that will add a northbound carpool lane on one of the region's most congested freeways connecting the San Fernando Valley with the rest of Los Angeles.

The Board's decision establishes a life of project budget of \$1.034 billion to initiate construction, and authorizes the agency, among others, to award a fixed-price design-build contract with Kiewit Pacific Company.

The project will begin construction later this year, and could be completed within four and a half years, creating 18,000 local construction jobs.

The Northbound High-Occupancy Vehicle Lane will be built on the I-405 between the I-10 and U.S. 101 and is a joint project between Metro and Caltrans. A southbound carpool lane has already been constructed in the corridor. -- from *Dave Sotero*

150 new buses will be purchased with stimulus funding

The Board also approved the purchase of up to 150 new state-of-the-art buses fueled by compressed natural gas (CNG) using stimulus funding.

In taking the action, the Board reaffirmed its commitment to move quickly in using transportation funding that will be provided to the region under the recently approved American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

The Board approved the purchase of 50 CNG buses (32-foot) for \$23.6 million to be used as part of the fleet of buses operated by Metro's Contracted Services. Contracted Bus Service operates 22 bus lines under contract to Metro using a fleet of 181 buses. The buses being replaced include 33 diesel buses and 17 propane-fueled shuttle buses that were acquired in 2001.

The contracted bus procurement will be low-floor, CNG-fueled buses with an interior video surveillance system, the same technology features of directly operated Metro buses.



The 45-foot Compo-buses, similar to the one that debuted here in 2004, have 15 to 20 percent more capacity for carrying passengers than standard 40-foot buses.

The Board also approved the purchase option under an existing contract of up to 100 additional buses for Metro's bus operation at a cost not to exceed \$60 million. These buses will be 45-foot Compo-buses (composite) which have proven to be both durable and economical. Not only are they CNG fueled, the vehicle structure is stronger than conventional steel frame vehicles and have 15 to 20 percent more capacity for carrying passengers than standard 40-foot buses.

Both bus procurements will be awarded to North American Bus Industries (NABI) headquartered in Anniston, Alabama. The bus buys are contingent upon receipt of federal stimulus funding, subject to final award by the

