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Officials break ground June 26 for Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension at community celebration in Arcadia. *Photo by Gary Leonard*

• Community Welcomes Gold Line Foothill Extension at Groundbreaking

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(June 30, 2010) Some 200 people flocked to the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension at Newcastle Park in Arcadia to hear community leaders tout the first Measure R rail project which will extend the Metro Gold Line 11 miles from Pasadena west to Azusa with another link planned to Montclair.

Visitors heard some 90 minutes of speeches, were entertained by the Monrovia High School Band, and had the opportunity to examine mini-models of future train stations in Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte, Irwindale and Azusa.

Video by Vince Ybarra for Metro: Not hooked up to YouTube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nM7Z0nYfOXw>. NOTE: This YouTube link is being sent to you for the purpose of viewing the Metro video only. Metro employees are subject to the Employee Code of Conduct that generally restricts the use of company time/equipment to conducting Metro business. Please click on icon above to view the video.

The leaders who spoke pointed to the ongoing efforts by Duarte Councilman and Metro Director John Fasana for keeping the project alive, while outgoing Metro Board Chair Ara Najarian talked up the 30/10 initiative saying, if approved, the funding “would help build several other transit projects to benefit the region.”

A dozen other major transit projects are in the works and will be completed sooner than anticipated if the 30/10 initiative is approved.

Metro Community Relations Manager Barbara Burns and Community Relations Coordinator Jackie Martinez were on hand to teach children about safety with Metro’s own talking robot, while several other Metro volunteers and staff provided attendees with general information about the agency’s varied transit programs.