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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MTA AND CALTRANS TO CELEBRATE GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW HOV  
LANE ON I-10 THAT WILL INCREASE LENGTH OF EL MONTE BUSWAY**

**WHAT:** MTA Board Chairman John Fasana will address a gathering of local, state and federal officials to celebrate the extension of the El Monte Busway high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane from 11 miles to 14.2 miles by widening the San Bernardino Freeway (I-10) from 8 to 10 lanes. The 3.2 mile segment, funded by the state (from MTA programmed state funds) and MTA local Prop. C funds, will extend the HOV lane from Baldwin Avenue in El Monte to the San Gabriel Valley Freeway (605), and will reduce one-way delays for both bus riders and car/van poolers by an additional five minutes. During peak hours, more than 6,000 persons, per hour, use the HOV lane and save about one minute per mile in travel time. More than 400 lane miles of MTA funded carpool lanes are in operation in LA County, and more than 350 lane miles are either in construction, design or planning. This is the third time since 1973 that the El Monte Busway has been lengthened. Three additional extensions are planned for construction in the next decade with one segment already in construction (Route 57 to the San Bernardino Line), bringing the El Monte Busway all the way to the San Bernardino County Line, a total of more than 21 miles, and connections to existing San Bernardino County HOV lanes.

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. Monday, March 4

**WHERE:** Denny's Restaurant, 9804 E. Flair Drive  
El Monte, California (traveling eastbound, take the I-10 Freeway and exit Baldwin Avenue, veer right to Denny's)

**WHO:** MTA Board Chairman John Fasana  
U.S. Representative Hilda Solis, 31<sup>st</sup>- Congressional District  
Business, Trans. & Housing Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet  
(tentative)  
Assemblyman Ed Chavez, 57<sup>t</sup> -Assembly District, and others