

Groundbreaking Ceremonies to Mark Start of LA-to-Pasadena Light-Rail Construction



Link here for full project description: www.la-pasblueline.org/

(June 8) A groundbreaking ceremony Friday morning in Chinatown will mark the beginning of construction of a 13.7-mile light-rail line that will run from LA's Union Station to Sierra Madre Villa in East Pasadena.

The groundbreaking, scheduled from 9:30 until 11 a.m. at the intersection of Alameda and College streets, will kick-off the first leg of the route -- construction of a \$21 million elevated structure that will run approximately one mile from Union Station to just beyond Chinatown.

The groundbreaking will be held below the future site of the Chinatown Station, which will stand some 33 feet above street level.

Local officials to attend

Los Angeles City Council Member Mike Hernandez, who also serves as Chair of the Pasadena Metro Blue Line Construction Authority Board of Directors, will be joined by Mayor Richard Riordan, County Supervisor and MTA Board Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard and other Pasadena-area officials.

Others scheduled to attend are State Sen. Adam Schiff, whose sponsorship of SB 1847 allowed the project to go forward; State Sen. Richard Polanco; Assemblyman Antonio Villaraigosa; and State Secretary of Business Transportation and Housing Maria Contreras-Sweet.

Also present will be Roelof Van Ark, CEO of Siemens Transportation Systems, whose firm will build the state-of-the-art light-rail vehicles under contract to the MTA. The new Siemens rail car will be on display at the groundbreaking.

Passenger service in mid-2003

The first phase of the Pasadena Blue Line will stop in Lincoln Heights,

Highland Park, South Pasadena and Pasadena, in addition to Chinatown. The line is scheduled to begin carrying passengers between Los Angeles and Pasadena in July 2003. Phase two of the project is planned to continue on to Claremont.

Thirteen new stations will be constructed along the initial route, six in Los Angeles, including the Chinatown stop, one station in South Pasadena and six stations in Pasadena.

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