

CPUC Halts Construction at 21 Metro Gold Line Intersections

(Jan. 10, 2002) Construction at 21 intersections along a five-mile stretch of Metro Gold Line track between Union Station and Pasadena could be delayed until at least May while a safety and environmental review ordered by the California Public Utilities Commission is conducted.

The CPUC voted unanimously, Wednesday, to require the Pasadena Blue Line Construction Authority to postpone construction at intersections located in Mt. Washington, Highland Park, South Pasadena and Pasadena while the review is pending.

Area residents had opposed construction of at-grade tracks in the intersections because of possible affect on pedestrians, auto traffic and emergency vehicle access to Huntington Memorial Hospital.

Construction will continue at 40 other intersections where city streets will cross the light-rail tracks. Crews will continue construction from Union Station through Chinatown and Lincoln Heights to near Avenue 45 in Mt. Washington. Construction also will continue from Old Pasadena to Sierra Madre Villa Avenue in East Pasadena.

The Authority building the Metro Gold Line had opposed any halt in construction at the disputed intersections, citing added costs of the \$732 million project and delays in the projected July 2003 opening date.

If at-grade construction is prohibited at the disputed intersections, Authority CEO Rick Thorpe said the agency would have to build bridges over or tunnels beneath the intersections.

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