

Officials Break Ground for Santa Monica Boulevard Parkway

CEO Roger Snoble, at right, Mayor James Hahn and County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, center, are among officials leading ground-breaking ceremony for Santa Monica Boulevard Parkway Jan. 31.



INSET: Artist's rendering illustrates landscape improvements designed to give a "classic boulevard" look to the Santa Monica Parkway. View is looking east from Sepulveda Boulevard toward Century City. Trees in the median and along the frontage road dramatically affect the visual character of the route.

(Feb. 4, 2003) The much-anticipated reconstruction of the Santa Monica Boulevard Transit Parkway Project began, Jan. 31, with the turn of a spade as local officials gathered to mark the occasion.

The \$68.5 million project will reconfigure 2.5 miles of Santa Monica Boulevard by combining the two existing roadways – "Big" and "Little" Santa Monica – along with the railroad right-of-way, into three eastbound and three westbound traffic lanes.

The renovated roadway will reach from the San Diego Freeway on the west through Century City to Beverly Hills. When completed, it will be able to handle as much as 20 percent more traffic than it does today.

"The project will significantly improve traffic flow on this famously congested boulevard and will transform this area into a classic boulevard that will beautify the neighborhood," said Mayor James Hahn.

Metro Rapid bus line

"Once this project is completed, MTA is poised to establish a new 20-mile Metro Rapid bus line that will run from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica along Santa Monica Boulevard," said CEO Roger Snoble.

Included in the project are neighborhood access roads on the north and south sides of the main road. I-405 freeway ramps will be improved and a new street lighting system, a landscaped median and bicycle lanes will be added.

MTA is providing \$23.6 million in funding for the project, with the remainder coming from a combination of federal, state and local funding.

The first of six phases of construction – freeway ramp improvements – will begin in March. The project is expected to be completed in July 2005. All three traffic lanes on Santa Monica Boulevard, east- and west-bound, will remain open during construction.

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