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Joining local officials during the groundbreaking for the Cross Valley Connector interchange were, from left, Metro's Jim de la Loza, Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Congressman "Buck" McKeon and MTA Board Chairman Frank Roberts.



### Groundbreaking for New Santa Clarita Valley Interchange

(July 7, 2004) Congressman Howard "Buck" McKeon, Supervisor Michael Antonovich and MTA Board Chairman Frank Roberts joined Santa Clarita officials, June 30, to break ground for construction of the Golden Valley Road/Soledad Canyon Road Interchange – part of the Santa Clarita Cross Valley Connector.

Metro contributed \$8.5 million from the 2000 Special Call for Projects toward the \$25.5 million project, which will link Interstate 5 and State Route 14 and provide regional access across the Santa Clarita Valley.

Construction is estimated to be complete by fall 2005. The interchange will benefit local businesses and residents, and will add an important link for goods movement and commuter traffic between Santa Clarita's industrial centers and the rest of Southern California.

In remarks during the ceremony, Roberts said the Cross Valley Connector provides "...access to the area's largest employment centers...with over 1,000 companies and more than 50,000 jobs. The Connector will reduce over 5,000 hours of delay each day."



When completed, the interchange will provide access to more than 1,000 companies and more than 50,000 jobs and eliminate more than 5,000 hours of delay each day.

Noting that the Connector is "...critical to the mobility needs of the region," Roberts said MTA also awarded a \$9.5 million grant to the Newhall Ranch Road segment of the Connector in the 2001 Call for Projects.

Jim de la Loza, executive officer for Countywide Planning and Development, joined Roberts and Antonovich at the groundbreaking.

-- Brian Lin contributed to this story.

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