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Tossing the ceremonial first shovelfuls of dirt at the Eastside Extension groundbreaking were, from center right, City Councilman Tom Labonge, Supervisor Gloria Molina, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, City Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa, CEO Roger Snoble and Metro Board Member Pam O'Connor.



All Aboard, Los Angeles! Next Stop, East L.A.!

--Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard

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By BILL HEARD, Editor

(July 17, 2004) Taking a score of golden shovels in hand, Saturday, local, state and federal officials dug the first ceremonial bits of earth to officially break ground for construction of the Metro Gold Line's Eastside Extension.

The \$898.8 million design-build project will connect Union Station with Little Tokyo and communities in East Los Angeles when it opens in late 2009. By 2020 the six-mile line is expected reach 23,000 daily boardings.

With the groundbreaking accomplished, one of next steps in the project will take place in September when Caltrans begins construction



of a bridge over the 101 Freeway to link Union Station with Little Tokyo. The digging of the 1.8-mile tunnel under the Boyle Heights area won't begin for perhaps another year.

Construction begins now! From left, Mike Aparicio of Eastside LRT Constructors, Project Director Dennis Mori, CEO Roger Snoble, Tony Ferruccio of Eastside LRT; and Diego Cardoso of Metro's Central Area Team.



After the groundbreaking ceremony, event coordinators from the Metro staff took a well-deserved break. From left are intern Carisha Larios, Jennifer Salamanca, Duane Martin, Fran Curbello, Valerie Rader and Davide Puglisi.

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