


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom](#) (web)

[CEO Hotline](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/
Library](#)
[Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)

[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Retirement
Round-up](#)

Metro Info

[Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)

[Org Chart](#) (pdf)

[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

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Work on Eastside Extension Begins in Boyle Heights Area

- Relocation of utility lines is first step

By JOSÉ UBALDO

(Aug. 26, 2004) In preparation for tunneling on the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, construction workers this week began relocation of utilities in the vicinity of First Street between Gless and Bailey streets in the Boyle Heights area.

Construction crews are excavating trenches to relocate sanitary sewer lines, storm drains and water distribution pipelines and will continue this work for approximately four months.

Work hours are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, with intermittent work at First and Boyle on weekends. The six-mile light rail project will cost \$890 million and is due to begin service in late 2009.

Also, during this period, turning restrictions will apply off the southbound and northbound off-ramps on First Street from time to time. The northbound off ramp may also be closed intermittently.

Lane Closures

While the streets will never be fully closed, there will be intermittent lane closures for eastbound and westbound traffic on First Street between Gless and Bailey Streets and for northbound and southbound lanes on Boyle Avenue between Pennsylvania and Third Street.

Besides lane closures, there will be parking restrictions to allow safe access for the construction crews and to keep the public safe and traffic moving as much as possible.

There will be periodic relocations of bus stops in and around the intersection of First Street and Boyle Avenue. These relocations will result in moving the stops a few feet north, south, east or west from their existing locations.