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National Rail~Volution Conference Comes to L.A., Sept. 18-22

By DAVE SOTERO

(Sept. 2, 2004) A national audience of transportation professionals, urban planners, community activists and others comes to Los Angeles, Sept. 18-22, for the 10th annual national Rail~Volution Conference.

Hosted this year by Metro, Rail~Volution is the nation's premier industry gathering for public and private sector groups committed to working together to create more livable communities through transit investments.

The conference will also serve as a forum for local officials, business and environmental leaders, developers and architects interested in making cooperative land use and transportation decisions.

"Los Angeles has long been one of the primary trendsetters in American culture," says Congressman Earl Blumenauer of Oregon, founder of Rail~Volution. "As it faces changes in population and demographics, increasing sprawl and traffic congestion, a lack of affordable housing and economic uncertainties, it is becoming one of the most important laboratories for livability in this decade. Los Angeles is where America is headed."

60-plus workshops planned

More than 60 workshops are planned covering a wide range of topics, including smart growth, urbanism, economic development, schools, community building, advocacy, health and environmental protection. Conference planners have also organized 20 mobile workshops that will allow attendees to tour new transit-oriented developments and other urban centers in downtown and East Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Hollywood, Pasadena, Fullerton, Brea, Claremont and Long Beach.

For more information, visit the Rail~Volution web site at www.railvolution.com.