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Rail~Volution drew 1,000 participants from around the nation to the Metro-hosted event in Los Angeles.



DAVE SOTERO PHOTO

Rail~Volution Spotlights LA's Efforts to Reshape Around Transit

- Congressman says nation has 'stake' in L.A.'s success
- FTA Administrator says households near transit to double

BY DAVE SOTERO

(Sept. 23, 2004) Los Angeles was home to the 10th Annual Rail~Volution conference, this week, as 1,000 attendees from around the country convened in Hollywood to see first-hand how dramatically the region is redesigning its urban landscape around transit.

The conference, hosted by Metro, featured a full program over five days, including press conferences, weekend tours, opening reception, 60-plus conference sessions, exhibits and evening events.

Rail~Volution, founded by Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon), is considered a premier industry gathering for addressing urban issues that arise in communities served by public transportation.

Opening Rail~Volution's plenary session on Monday, CEO Roger Snoble set the stage for why Los Angeles was selected as the city for a national discussion on urban livability issues.

'LA is reinventing itself'

"Los Angeles is reinventing itself as a place where it is possible to enjoy a

JOHN WEISKOPF PHOTO



Congressman Earl Blumenauer of Oregon, founder of Rail~Volution, speaks at a plenary session.

greater quality of life by living, working and playing in urban communities connecting directly with modern, efficient public transit.” Snoble said.

Blumenauer said the Los Angeles region’s efforts to deal with population density, changing demographics, traffic congestion and economic uncertainties will prove critical for the rest of the country. “Everybody in America has a stake in the success of your efforts here.”

FTA Administrator Jennifer Dorn, speaking at Tuesday’s session, said demand for compact housing near transit is likely to more than double by 2025.

Dorn cited a new study conducted for the FTA by the Center for Transit-Oriented Development, which found that across the U.S. more than 14.6 million households are likely to rent and buy housing near transit by 2025 – double the number that live in these neighborhoods today.

DAVE SOTERO PHOTO



Rail-Volution included 20 “mobile workshop” tours like this one which stopped at the Metro Red Line’s Hollywood/Highland station.

Second only to New York

Demand in Los Angeles, due to its sheer size, is expected to be second only to New York, she said.

Development activity is occurring along many corridors of the Metro system, including downtown Los Angeles, Chinatown, Long Beach, North Hollywood, Lincoln Heights, Hollywood and Pasadena.

Conference attendees were surprised by the amount of development activity now taking place.

Metro coordinated 20 “mobile workshop” tours that gave attendees a look at transit-oriented developments and other urban centers in East Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Hollywood, Pasadena, Fullerton, Brea, Claremont and Long Beach. Many tours were filled to capacity.