

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

▶ [Safety](#)

▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)

▶ [Ask the CEO](#)

▶ [CEO Forum](#)

▶ [Employee Recognition](#)

▶ [Employee Activities](#)

▶ [Metro Projects](#)

▶ [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

▶ [Archives](#)

▶ [Events Calendar](#)

▶ [Research Center/
Library](#)

▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)

▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)

▶ [Policies](#)

▶ [Training](#)

▶ [Help Desk](#)

▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Transit officials break ground, Friday, to mark official start of construction of the the 8.5-mile Exposition Light Rail Line.



Photo by Juan Ocampo

Groundbreaking Signals Start of Expo Line Construction Project

- 'A vital transportation project,' says Burke
- 'Crucial link to regional transportation system,' says Molina
- Opening in 2010, it will link downtown LA and Culver City

By RICK JAGER

(Sept. 29, 2006) The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board, joined by other local elected officials, officially broke ground, Friday, on the 8.5-mile Exposition Light Rail Line.

When completed in 2010, the Expo Line will link downtown to Culver City and will provide an alternative to the heavily congested I-10 Santa Monica freeway.

"Today marks the beginning of construction on this vital transportation project that will bring relief to the thousands of daily commuters that travel between downtown Los Angeles and the Westside," said Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, who also chairs the Expo Construction Authority board. "This is truly an historic day as we embark on building a light rail system that will serve this heavily traveled corridor."

Beginning in downtown Los Angeles, the Expo Line will have a total of 10 stations, sharing two stations (7th Street/Metro Center and Pico/Chick Hearn) with the Metro Blue Line. The line will travel along Flower Street to just south of downtown near USC where it will proceed west on the Metro-owned right-of-way along Exposition Boulevard with an interim terminus near Washington/National in Culver City.

'A major milestone'

"Today's groundbreaking on this crucial link to the regional transportation system marks a major milestone in bringing rail access to the Westside," said Metro Board Chair Gloria Molina. "It's been over 50 years since Pacific Electric's Santa Monica Air Line provided passenger service along this right-of-way and in less than five years we will once again have a rail system in place to ease congestion and speed travel times for Westside residents."

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa acknowledged the efforts of current and former Board members and the involvement of cities along the Expo Line right-of-way and said, "We understand that if we don't begin to rethink what the region looks like; if we don't begin to invest in public transit and move people out of the single-passenger automobile; if we don't figure out how to treat density along transportation corridors like they do in every great city around the world; we're not going to address the quality of life in this city."

Mayor Gary Silbiger of Culver City said the Expo Line project has been a collective effort by all the jurisdictions involved, adding, "It shows that we can find solutions to everything by looking at common goals to serve the public good."

Earlier this year, the Construction Authority's board awarded a design/build contract to the joint venture construction and design group of FCI/Fluor/Parsons to build the \$640 million project. When completed, it will be turned over to Metro to operate. A future second phase of the project would extend the Exposition Line to Santa Monica.

'Time to celebrate'

"Today is a milestone for the construction authority and a time to celebrate as we begin to construct this important transportation project for the region," said Expo Construction Authority CEO Rick Thorpe.

The eight new stations planned for the project will be built at 23rd Street/Flower, Jefferson/Flower, Vermont/Exposition, Western/Exposition, Crenshaw/Exposition, La Brea/Exposition, La Cienega/Exposition and Washington/National.

The stations will include state-of-the-art amenities including ticket vending machines, telephones, security cameras, real-time train arrival signs, bike racks, canopy-covered seating and public art. A bike path will parallel the rail line.

Park and Ride lots will also be constructed along the alignment with approximately 1,500 parking spaces provided among three stations at Crenshaw, La Cienega and Washington/National.

Estimated ridership on the Expo Line is projected at 43,600 daily riders by the year 2020. The hours of operation will coincide with Metro's other rail lines (approximately 4 a.m. to 2 a.m., seven days a week).

Landscaping will be a particularly important element in creating the Exposition Light Rail Line as a transit parkway. When it opens, the line will feature thousands of trees, shrubs and vines.