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With the Gateway Plaza in the background, the light rail transit bridge curves over the 101 Freeway. Rail and an overhead electrical power system will soon be installed on the bridge's barren concrete surface.



Photos by Ned Racine

101 Bridge Previews Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension

By NED RACINE

(March 27, 2007) Curving 1,100 feet from Union Station to Alameda Street, the 101 Freeway Overcrossing light-rail transit bridge changes the Downtown Los Angeles skyline and previews another addition to Metro Rail.



Workers remove bolts which supported temporary signage during construction of the light rail transit bridge.

Built with 1,100 tons of reinforcing steel, the 101 Freeway Overcrossing bridge will carry the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension light-rail vehicles between Union Station and the Little Tokyo/Arts District station at 1st and Alameda streets.

Metro took possession of the bridge from Caltrans on March 15. Caltrans managed the project with oversight by Metro and the Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering.

Metro, Caltrans, and the Bureau of Engineering worked closely together to complete the bridge. The bridge cost approximately \$7 million to construct.

To create this mammoth structure, approximately 350 truck loads of concrete – 3,300 cubic yards – were needed.

The next phase of construction includes installation of trackwork and overhead power systems for the electrically-driven trains.

The six-mile, light-rail Eastside Extension is scheduled to open in late in late 2009.



Crossing the 101 Freeway, the light rail transit bridge will carry the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension light rail vehicles.