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National Boulevard a Focus of Expo Line Construction



With their back towards Jefferson Boulevard, workers watch the Ballona Creek bed below. Concrete supports for the National Boulevard South Bridge sit to the workers' right. The bridge will be reconstructed to carry four lanes of east/west traffic.

Photo 7/28/08 by Ned Racine

Excavation of Exposition Boulevard Trench Begins Soon

(Aug. 6, 2008)
National Boulevard remains a focus for Expo Line construction efforts, as the divided thoroughfare is reformed as a two-way boulevard adjacent to future light rail trains.

As part of the street's reformation, demolition of the National Boulevard

VIDEO: A worker lifts a piece of asphalt from the surface of a former parking lot within National Boulevard. Once the asphalt has been removed, the soil underneath will be compacted, part of the process of realigning National Boulevard as a two-way street. West of Dorsey High School and east of La Brea Avenue, workers remove soil from the Expo Line right-of-way. Workers have already removed approximately 60,000 tons of soil from the light rail alignment.

South Bridge has concluded. Excavation will soon begin on a 2,500-foot trench that will allow the trains to run under the busy intersection formed by Jefferson and Exposition boulevards and Figueroa Street.

The trench will take approximately 13 months to complete.

Old freight train rails and ties have been removed from the alignment, and new rail has been laid at the Denker Avenue and Exposition Boulevard intersection.



Concrete girders are lowered into place to form a "cap" for a trench support structure. With girder installation now complete, excavation of the trench can begin. The Expo Line trains will run in the trench along Exposition Boulevard and past USC and Exposition Park. *Photo 7/07/08 by Greg Starosky*