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Workers Well Under Way Reconstructing Two Miles of Orange Line

By NED RACINE, Editor

(Oct. 23, 2008) Workers are well under way in repaving two miles of the Metro Orange Line, replacing and upgrading the transitway pavement to accommodate traffic growth.

The popular line last month set a record of 27,987 average weekday boardings.

Workers are removing the existing asphalt and its underlying base and replacing it with 9.5 inches of base material (including recycled concrete and asphalt) and 7.5 inches of asphalt.



Grinding machine shoots soil directly into waiting trucks. To reduce dust, the grinder waters soil before it grinds it. *Ned Racine photo*



The density of the soil under a paved surface is crucial to the longevity of the paving. This density meter, powered by a miniscule nuclear reactor,

The reconstruction work, which began October 6, is expected to take approximately eight to 10 weeks to complete. Metro is sharing the cost of the work with Shimmick-Obayashi Joint Venture, the Orange Line’s original contractor.

Metro will spend an additional \$500,000 to add a top layer of “superpave” in some areas. “Superpave” manufacturers add chemicals to the asphalt base, allowing greater durability and longevity, particularly in hot weather.

checks the density of soil by sending energy into the soil and tracking the pattern the energy creates. *Sal Hernandez photo*



As trucks wait to haul away material, a rotary grinder cuts away at asphalt near the east end of the Metro Orange Line. *Sal Hernandez photo*



While the Orange Line east of the Valley College station undergoes reconstruction, passengers board the Metro Liners on Fulton Ave. *Ned Racine photo*