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Work begins on I-405 HOV lane through the Sepulveda Pass



(May 12, 2009) Officials for Metro and Caltrans join California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger May 8 at a site in West Los Angeles adjacent to the I-405 freeway during Friday afternoon rush-hour traffic to launch construction of a northbound HOV lane that will run 10 miles through the busy Sepulveda Pass area and require new freeway ramps, bridge construction, 18 miles of retaining walls and widening the freeway. The \$1.03 billion project is expected to create 18,000 local construction jobs during an estimated four and a half years to completion. The northbound HOV lane will be built on the I-405 between the I-10 and U.S. 101 and is a joint project between Metro and Caltrans. A southbound carpool lane has already been constructed in the corridor.



The Mayor: "This project will do something about this gridlock."



The Governor: "This is the most congested freeway section in the nation."

Sign of the Times: The Metro contingent takes a bow at the Reinvestment Act marker that will be erected at projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. From left, California State Assemblyman Bob Blumenfield (D-40, Woodland Hills), who was responsible for pushing through a state assembly bill that would direct \$1.6 billion of federal stimulus funds for California to regional transportation agencies, cities and counties; K.N. Murthy, Deputy Chief Capital Management Officer; Girish Roy, Director, Construction Management; Metro Board Member Richard Katz; Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; David Yale, DEO, Countywide Planning and Development; Board Member and LADOT General Manager Rita Robinson, and Michael Barbour, EO, Highway Project Management.



Photos: Gary Leonard