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Metro Orange Line Extension Gets Under Way in June



Construction of the proposed Metro Orange Line Chatsworth Station, pictured in rendering above, will begin in a north parking lot at the Chatsworth Metrolink/Amtrak Station, below. Photo shows current view from the existing parking lot looking northwest.



- Metro will officially break ground June 24 on the first construction project expedited through Measure R -- the extension of the Metro Orange Line from Canoga Park to Chatsworth in the San Fernando Valley. The four-mile addition to the Metro Orange Line will connect the transitway with the Southern California inter-urban rail system.

(June 4, 2009) Construction is scheduled to begin June 24 on the Metro Orange Line Extension – a four-mile long, north-south bus corridor that will connect Metro's Canoga Park and Ride Station with the Metrolink Station in Chatsworth.

The first shovel will hit the ground as construction begins on a north parking lot at the Chatsworth Metrolink/Amtrak Station, marking the first phase of construction on a four-mile addition to the Metro Orange Line right-of-way to connect with the Southern California inter-urban rail system. Completion of this parking lot is required before the south parking lot is modified to ensure that parking is continuously available for Metrolink/Amtrak patrons during construction of the Metro Orange Line Extension. Later construction work on the alignment will commence in late 2009/early 2010.

The new busway is expected to open in the summer of 2012. Ninety day notices have been sent to existing tenants to clear the right-of-way so that construction can begin, said Project Manager Hitesh Patel.

Once completed, the extension "will offer Metro passengers greater access

to more of the Valley and will integrate the latest technologies and environmentally sound systems," Patel said.

Work on the Metro Orange Line Extension will include a parallel off-street pedestrian/bicycle pathway; stations at Sherman Way, Roscoe Boulevard, Nordhoff Street and at the Chatsworth Metrolink Station; as well as extensive landscaping.

Approximately 200 parking spaces will be provided at the Sherman Way Station and the Chatsworth Metrolink Station will have its parking capacity expanded from 480 to 600-plus spaces.

The Metro Board certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and approved a project budget of \$215.6 million in January. This is the first project listed in the Measure R program.

"We mobilized our consultants in anticipation of board approval in January and have been working long hours over the last several months to accelerate the project. We've completed the final design of the north parking lot at Chatsworth and plan to award the construction contract in early June," Patel said.

Opened in 2005, the Orange Line busway route and its adjacent eight miles of bike path and pedestrian walkway, runs east and west along the old Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way connecting the trendy NoHo Arts District with major destinations in the heart of the San Fernando Valley. A new station and park and ride lot At Canoga Avenue was opened in late 2006.

--from Michael D. White and Dave Sotero

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