



[Home](#)

[CEO Hotline](#)

[Viewpoint](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

[Archives](#)

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

▶ [Safety](#)

▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)

▶ [Ask the CEO](#)

▶ [CEO Forum](#)

▶ [Employee Recognition](#)

▶ [Employee Activities](#)

▶ [Metro Projects](#)

▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)

▶ [Archives](#)

▶ [Events Calendar](#)

▶ [Research Center/Library](#)

▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)

▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)

▶ [Policies](#)

▶ [Training](#)

▶ [Help Desk](#)

▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

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Metro team gets a dig in at the ground-breaking ceremonies for the Metro Orange Line extension to Chatsworth.

First Official Measure R Construction Project Begins

- **Metro Breaks Ground on Metro Orange Line Extension to Chatsworth**

By Dave Sotero
Media Relations

(June 25, 2009) Marking the first official project to begin construction under the new voter-approved Measure R transportation sales tax, Metro has broken ground on a four-mile extension of the highly successful Metro Orange Line.

The extension of L.A. County's premier dedicated busway will begin at the line's current terminus in Canoga Park. Reaching four miles north to the Chatsworth Metrolink/Amtrak Station, the new extension will add new north-south mobility options in the West San Fernando Valley and create a vital connection between Metro Orange Line service and a broader inter-urban rail system spanning all counties of Southern California and beyond.

City and county officials met with Sully-Miller Contracting Co. at the Chatsworth Station for groundbreaking ceremonies on the first phase of construction – a north parking lot that will replace a south parking lot needed to accommodate current train passengers during construction.

Construction work on the alignment is expected to begin in



late 2009 to early 2010. As a result of Measure R funding, the busway extension is projected to open in mid-2012 – more than three years ahead of schedule.

CEO Art Leahy: "Metro is revolutionizing transportation in Los Angeles and Southern California."

A positive transportation option

"Angelenos want more public transportation options, and we're making that a reality beginning with the extension of the Metro Orange Line," said Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board Chair Antonio Villaraigosa.

"The voters made their voices heard loud and clear when they overwhelmingly passed Measure R, and now we're able to deliver this project three years ahead of schedule," he said. "This is the first of many projects now in the pipeline that will dramatically improve regional mobility, create news jobs and generate new economic opportunities for all Angelenos."



Metro Board Member Zev Yaroslavsky shares a moment as Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa gives up the podium for the Orange Line's original booster. At right, Los Angeles City Councilman Greig Smith.

L.A. County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Zev Yaroslavsky was among the first public officials within Los Angeles to advocate for a local dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. "The extension to Chatsworth will build on the success that has made the Metro Orange Line one of the most renowned busway projects in the nation," Yaroslavsky said. "We've already proven that you can create a premium rapid bus service that is both affordable and flexible enough to serve the growing needs of today's transit riders. Now even more commuters stand to benefit from connections with the Valley's best short-cut."

The Los Angeles Economic Development Council estimates that the \$215.6 million construction phase of the Metro Orange Line Extension project will create 3,000 annual full-time equivalent jobs as well as infuse \$461 million in direct and indirect business revenues back into the local economy.



Project team: CEO Art Leahy leads photo op of Metro employees at ground-breaking of Metro Orange Line extension to Chatsworth. *Photo by Scott Harms, Los Angeles County.*

Eco-friendly and well-connected

When complete, the Metro Orange Line extension will transform the Metro-owned right-of-way into an attractive landscaped busway similar to the existing Metro Orange Line corridor. Major features will include four station stops at Sherman Way, Roscoe, Nordhoff and Chatsworth, a new 207-space park and ride facility at the Sherman Way Station, landscaping and parallel bicycle and pedestrian paths.

The design-build project also will include an elevated bridge at Lassen Street for buses to safely pass over Metrolink and Amtrak train tracks as they enter Chatsworth Station. Metro also will build privacy walls where the busway is built adjacent to residential properties, as well as install new traffic signals and other roadway improvements.

The extension will provide high-capacity transit linkages between major local activity centers, and is expected to help relieve congestion on North-South arterial streets.

The Metro Orange line has exceeded ridership estimates since its first day of operation in October 2005. Currently handling an average of 22,000 boardings per day, the extension is expected to generate 9,000 new average weekday boardings by the year 2030.



Following the first phase of construction of a parking lot, construction work on the alignment is expected to begin in late 2009 to early 2010. Check it out at [Metro Orange Line Extension](#) pages on metro.net.

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)