



June 1, 2004

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## **Federal Transit Administration Approves \$490.7 Million Funding Pact for Light Rail Extension to East Los Angeles**

- **Metro Signs Contract to Begin Construction**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today approved \$490.7 million in federal funding for a 6-mile extension of the Metro Gold Line from Union Station to Little Tokyo, Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles. Following the execution of a federal Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA), Metro CEO Roger Snoble signed the construction contract to build the \$898.8 million extension, which is expected to begin service through one of the most densely populated areas of Los Angeles County in 2009.

"Metro appreciates the work of our entire congressional delegation which brought this important project across the finish line," said Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Chairman. "We want to give special acknowledgement to Reps. Lucille Roybal-Allard, Xavier Becerra, David Dreier, Jerry Lewis, Juanita Millender-McDonald, Grace Napolitano, Adam Schiff, Hilda Solis, and Diane Watson, Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, California Business, Transportation & Housing Secretary Sunne Wright Mc Peak, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and Mobility 21, without whose efforts this milestone could not have been realized."

"We are especially grateful to Chairman Richard Shelby (Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and Senate Transportation, Treasury and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee) and Chairman Ernest Istook (House Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee) for the careful review their respective committees gave the Eastside FFGA," Yaroslavsky said. "We also fully acknowledge the constant support the Eastside project has and continues to receive from President Bush, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and FTA Administrator Jenna Dorn."

"Among the distinguished Members of Congress who lent their support for the Eastside FFGA were Chairman Don Young of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Ranking member of the committee, Rep. James Oberstar," Yaroslavsky added. "Strong support was also registered by Chairman Bill Young of the full House Appropriations Committee and the Ranking member of that committee, Rep. David Obey. And lastly, we also want to acknowledge the helpfulness of Rep. John Olver, who serves as the Ranking member of the House Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee."

The Eastside Extension is Metro's highest priority rail construction project. It will include eight stations and serve one of the most densely populated areas of Los Angeles County from Union Station eastward through Little Tokyo, Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles to a terminus at Pomona and Atlantic boulevards. The extension is due to open December of 2009.

"This is truly a historic day for Los Angeles," said Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard. "I would like to commend everyone involved for supporting this critically needed project. As we prepare for construction, I will continue to work with this dedicated team to make sure adequate federal funding is provided to complete the Gold Line extension as soon as possible and to provide the residents of my district with another safe, affordable and efficient mode of transportation."

"There couldn't be better news for the people of Little Tokyo, Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles," said Gloria Molina, L.A. County Supervisor and Metro Board member. "This line will link them to the Metro Rail System and provide them with easier access to jobs, schools, medical facilities and places of recreation."

"The Eastside Extension project is an excellent example of a region coming together for a gratifying result," said Metro CEO Roger Snoble. "We are pleased that the process has worked and I look forward to the start of

construction construction of this much-needed addition to the Metro System.”

Today’s signing of the Full Funding Grant Agreement followed a mandatory 60-day Congressional review of the \$898.8 million project and paved the way for Metro CEO Roger Snoble to execute a \$600.4 million contract with Eastside LRT Constructors to begin construction. Eastside LRT is a joint venture of Washington Group International, Obayashi Corporation and Shimmick Construction Corporation.

“These are tough economic times and regions across the country are competing vigorously for a share of a shrinking pot of federal money,” said Antonio Villaraigosa, L.A. City Councilman and Metro Board Director. “I am pleased that Congress and the FTA have recognized how much this project will improve the lives of thousands of people who live and work in the area this line will serve.”

**METRO-106**

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