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**Transit Reshaping Los Angeles, Region**

**National Rail~Volution Conference Comes to Los Angeles Sept. 18-22**

- Conference to showcase Southern California's efforts to redesign itself to build thriving communities, business districts around modern, efficient public transit systems

A national audience of transportation professionals, urban planners, community activists and others will be coming to Los Angeles Sept. 18-22 to highlight regional efforts to create more livable communities with transit.

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual national Rail~Volution Conference, hosted this year by Metro, has become the nation's premier industry gathering for public and private sector groups committed to working together to create more livable communities through transit investments. The conference will also serve as a forum for local officials, business and environmental leaders, developers and architects interested in making cooperative land use and transportation decisions.

Transit is reshaping the way more Los Angeles County residents live, work and play. The region was first built around the world's largest inter-urban electric rail system in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It is returning to those roots with a growing transit infrastructure that is helping improve the region's urban, social and economic environment.

"Los Angeles has long been one of the primary trendsetters in American culture," said Congressman Earl Blumenauer (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Oregon), founder of Rail~Volution. "As it faces changes in population and demographics, increasing sprawl and traffic congestion, a lack of affordable housing and economic uncertainties, it is becoming one of the most important laboratories for livability in this decade. Los Angeles is where America is headed."

More than 60 workshops are planned covering a wide range of topics, including smart growth, urbanism, economic development, schools, community building, advocacy, health and environmental protection. Conference planners have also organized 20 Mobile Workshops that will allow attendees to tour new transit-oriented developments and other urban centers in downtown and East Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Hollywood, Pasadena, Fullerton, Brea, Claremont and Long Beach.

A nationwide panel of speakers is also planned. Key speakers include: Reid Ewing, Rutgers University Center for Urban Policy Research; David Goldberg, Smart Growth America; David Gouverneur, Universidad Metropolitana, Caracas, Venezuela; John English, Utah Transit Authority, Todd Litman, Victoria Transport Policy Institute; Stephanos Polyzoides, Moule & Polyzoides; Roger Snoble, Los Angeles Metro; Shelly Poticha, Center for Transit-Oriented Development; Robert Puentes, Brookings Institution; Donald Shoup, UCLA, and; Molly White, Nike USA.

Conference fees are \$400. The Mobile Workshops are an additional \$35. To register or to obtain additional information, visit the Rail~Volution web site at [www.railvolution.com](http://www.railvolution.com).

**(Editor's Note:** Media interested in obtaining a press pass to attend Rail-Volution 2004 should register in advance on the Rail-Volution web site at [www.railvolution.com](http://www.railvolution.com) or call 1-800-788-7077. Conference fees will be waived when media presents credentials at conference registration desk. Fees will be waived for one person per media outlet.)

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