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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More than \$4 Billion in New Development Planned Around Metro Rail System

- Number of developments reveals that transit is reshaping Los Angeles' urban landscape, is subject of national Rail~Volution conference addressing transit and urban livability

Developers and their partners are investing more than \$4 billion in at least 30 new development projects around Metro stations throughout Los Angeles County, according to an informal survey conducted by Metro.

These new projects, all in various development stages, are occurring in downtown Los Angeles, Chinatown, Long Beach, North Hollywood, Lincoln Heights, Hollywood and Pasadena, and indicate a groundswell of development activity that is helping to reshape the region's urban landscape.

The projects will be showcased during Rail~Volution, a national conference beginning this weekend in Los Angeles. Conference attendees, representing a Who's Who of transit and livability advocates from around the country, will have the opportunity to tour the sites prior to the official opening of the conference on Monday.

"The Los Angeles region is reinventing itself to build better communities for residents who are now dealing with urban sprawl, traffic congestion, a housing shortage and reduced quality of life," said Roger Snoble, CEO of Metro. "As the Metro system expands, more and more Angelenos will be able to live, work and play close to transit. What we're witnessing today is a growing trend in development around rail that can improve mobility, recreate communities and spur economic development."

More than \$1 billion has already been invested in developments around Metro stations, particularly the Metro Red Line, where new joint development has helped revitalize portions of downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood. More development is planned around many Metro Gold Line Stations from downtown to Pasadena, and within the Transit Mall loop of the Metro Blue Line in Long Beach.

Transit-oriented developments, which contain a mix of housing, retail, office and entertainment adjacent to transit, are also a key component of L.A. County's new development portfolio. Notable examples are Del Mar Station and Mission Meridian Village in Pasadena, Sunset and Vine in Hollywood, and CityPlace in Long Beach.

Due to the scale of growth occurring near transit, the county is seen as a national model in its efforts to build livable communities in urban areas that surround transit.

"Southern California, especially the Los Angeles basin, has been the epicenter of planning and transportation issues for the past fifty years," said Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon). Blumenauer is the founder of the national Rail~Volution conference. "Los Angeles is this decade's most important laboratory for livability; how it is fitting these pieces together has profound consequences for all of America. From new rail construction to an explosion of downtown housing, Los Angeles is poised, once again, to be at the forefront of American trends. We need to be sure that it is headed in the right direction."

Transportation planners, architects, urban designers, policymakers civic leaders and advocates for livable communities will convene in Los Angeles next week to showcase the region's efforts to reshape itself to build communities around public transit systems.

Go to> www.railvolution.com

Rail~Volution

Media interested in obtaining a press pass to attend Rail~Volution 2004 should register in advance by calling 1-800-788-7077. Conference fees will be waived when media present credentials at the conference registration desk. Fees will be waived for one person per media outlet.

The conference will conduct workshops on smart growth, urbanism, economic development, schools, community building, advocacy, health and environmental protection. Conference organizers have also scheduled bus and walking tours that will allow attendees to visit new developments along the Metro Rail system and in other urban centers throughout Southern California.

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