

March 3, 2006
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Approves Design/Build Contract for Start of Exposition Light Rail Project

- Project Receives Record of Decision from FTA

Having reached a major milestone earlier this week when the Federal Transit Administration issued the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Exposition Light Rail Transit Project from the federal government, the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority's Board of Directors has approved a \$420.2 million design/build contract marking the official start of the project.

Construction on the line is expected to start this summer. The 8.5-mile light rail line, beginning in downtown Los Angeles, will share two stations (7th Street/Metro Center and Pico/Chick Hearn) with the existing Metro Blue Line. Just south of downtown the line will proceed west on the Metro-owned right-of-way on Exposition Boulevard, which parallels the heavily congested I-10 Freeway, with a terminus at Washington/National in Culver City.

The federal government in issuing the Record of Decision has determined that this project has satisfied all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act thereby completing the environmental clearance for this light rail project.

The Board of the construction authority authorized their Chief Executive Officer Rick Thorpe to award and execute a design/build contract to the joint venture construction and design group of FCI/Fluor/Parsons in the amount not to exceed \$420,207,000.

"We believe that we truly have brought on board the best joint venture construction and design team that will ensure that this transportation project is built on time and within budget," said Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority CEO Rick Thorpe. "We look forward to officially breaking ground on the Expo Light Rail Transit Project and getting this important project started."

In addition, the authority's Board gave their CEO authority to issue a Notice to Proceed (NTP) for the design and professional services scope of work once plans have been submitted and approved in an amount not to exceed \$77,757,000.

"This is a vital transportation project that will help increase mobility and reduce congestion along this corridor," said Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Chair Yvonne Burke. "The Record of Decision and the Board's action to authorize the award of this contract are important milestones in moving forward with this much needed project."

Metro, responsible for planning and preparing the environmental impact report on the project, now will hand off construction of the project to the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority. The Authority will be responsible for the final design and construction of the light rail line.

Eight new stations will be constructed for a total project cost estimated at \$640 million. A future second phase would extend the Exposition line to the City of Santa Monica.

For additional information on the Exposition Light Rail Project visit their Web site at www.buildexpo.org.

Metro-032