

July 25, 2007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction Work Continues on Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension in Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles

Metro construction crews will be working on different segments along the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension installing rail track, street widening and removing a large crane in Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles beginning the weekend of July 28.

In East Los Angeles, the intersection of Third Street and Mednik Avenue will be closed for one day, Saturday, July 28, to northbound and southbound Mednik Avenue traffic, to install rail track on that segment. Work has been scheduled from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Residents and motorists should expect regular traffic westbound and eastbound, on Third Street. However, southbound traffic will need to turn right on Third Street, left on Eastern Avenue, left on Whittier Boulevard and right on Mednik Avenue. For northbound traffic, motorists need to make a right on Third Street, left on Atlantic Boulevard, left on First Street and right on Mednik Avenue.

On Monday, July 30, First Street, between Lorena and Fresno streets, will be closed to remove a crane from the East Portal. Work has been scheduled for one day from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First Street will be completely closed to through traffic. Westbound traffic will be detoured at Lorena Street and eastbound traffic will be detoured at Fresno Street. Lorena Street will remain open for through traffic.

During the week of July 30, street widening of First Street, between Lorena and Indiana streets will take place from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Friday for the next three months. Work will consist of new curb, gutter, sidewalk, pavement and wheelchair ramps access.

Residents and motorists should be aware of parking restriction on First Street. Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction. A temporary chain link fence will be installed on the north side of the street. Existing sidewalk will be closed, but safe pedestrian pathways will be provided. In case the alley access to El Mercado is closed due to construction, the Lorena Street access will remain open. On Velasco Street, the access will be Indiana or Gleason streets.

Cones and electronic boards will be used to redirect traffic. Pedestrians will be directed to safe areas out of construction zones to minimize impacts to the community. Access to residences, businesses and emergency vehicles will be maintained at all times.

The Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, which will feature eight stations (two underground), will span six miles from Union Station in downtown Los Angeles via the Arts District/Little Tokyo and Boyle Heights to Atlantic/Pomona Boulevards in East Los Angeles. It is scheduled to open in 2009.

Residents who need more information should contact Metro Community Relations at (213) 922-2259.

Metro-137