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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Invited to Participate in Metro Regional Connector Transit Corridor Study Meetings in November

- Public Comment Requested

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) will be conducting two meetings in November to obtain public comment on the agency's Regional Connector Transit Corridor Study, which will analyze various transit alternatives for the possible connection of the Metro Gold Line, Metro Blue Line and Expo Line through downtown Los Angeles.

The study's purpose is to consider various transit modes, alignments and station location options for an area that encompasses approximately two square miles of downtown Los Angeles, including the communities of Little Tokyo, the Arts District, the Historic Core, the Toy District, Bunker Hill, the Financial District, the Jewelry District, and the Civic Center.

The public is invited to the following upcoming public meetings to learn about alignment and mode options and to provide comments:

- Tuesday, November 6: Central Library, Meeting Room A, 630 W. 5th Street, downtown Los Angeles, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. *Formal presentation begins at 12 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 7: Japanese American National Museum, Central Hall, 369 E. 1st Street, downtown Los Angeles, 6 – 8 p.m. *Formal presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.

By studying the project now, Metro seeks to accommodate expected ridership increases when the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension opens in 2009 and the Expo Line opens in 2010 and to support the resurgence of downtown Los Angeles as a business, cultural and residential hub.

Today, the Metro Blue Line terminates at Metro Center at 7th Street and Wilshire Boulevard. A few short miles away, the Metro Gold Line starts at Union Station, heading north towards the San Gabriel Valley. Currently there is no direct means for riders traveling from Long Beach to Pasadena to reach their destinations without transfers.

Previous studies have shown that the connection of light rail lines in downtown would increase system utilization, improve transit accessibility for downtown residents, and, ultimately, improve mobility throughout the region.

Metro's Alternatives Analysis (AA) study is the first step in the environmental clearance process. After the completion of the AA, the Metro Board of Directors will evaluate whether to move the project forward with further environmental review.

The meetings will provide the public a first opportunity to learn about the several alternatives in detail and provide input. Metro will provide a review of the proposed project goals and objectives, present opportunities to speak with project representatives, display maps and photographs of various transit alternatives and allow the public's submission of written and verbal comments.

Those unable to attend the meetings may also submit their input by phone, fax, mail, or e-mail by contacting : Ms. Dolores Roybal Saltarelli, Project Manager, Metro, Mail Stop: 99-22-2, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Phone: 213-922-7277. Fax: 213-922-3005. E-mail: roybald@metro.net. Comments must be received by November 21, 2007.

For more information or information in additional languages, call 213-922-7277. To obtain a project area map, visit www.metro.net/regionalconnector.

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