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Metro Gold Line to East Los Angeles is 90 Percent Complete

Construction of the Metro Gold Line extension to East Los Angeles that began in July 2004 is 90 percent complete and still within budget and on schedule for the grand opening in the summer of 2009.

Other milestones include going more than 3.6 million working hours without a lost-time accident, an unprecedented safety record. Installation of all rail tracks has been completed along with the tie-in to the Metro Gold Line to Pasadena.

The six-mile Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, which will feature eight stations, two underground, will go from Union Station in downtown Los Angeles via Little Tokyo/Arts District and Boyle Heights to Atlantic/Pomona boulevards in East Los Angeles. The eight new stations are Little Tokyo/Arts District, Pico/Aliso, Mariachi Plaza, Soto, Indiana, Maravilla, East LA Civic Center and Atlantic.

Construction of the two underground stations at Mariachi Plaza and Soto is at 84 percent while the six street-level stations are 68 percent completed. Systems installation is 80 percent completed.

There is a high level of activity occurring along the entire alignment, both at street level and underground. At the six street-level stations the work includes concrete site work, canopy and systems installation.

Underground at Mariachi Plaza, construction crews are doing the decorative concrete masonry walls along the plaza and adjacent property. The portion of the station entrance to the plaza near the mariachi kiosk also is under construction. The underground station entrance stairs are being constructed from the plaza to the mezzanine levels and escalators are also being installed to connect the various underground levels. Elevators will be installed within the next few months.

At Soto station the station entrance is being constructed at the southwest corner of First and Soto Street. Interior work in the underground rooms is in progress as work on the surface structure continues.

Installation of the irrigation system and landscaping also has begun along the easterly part of the rail alignment and will move from Atlantic and Pomona boulevards to Indiana Street in East Los Angeles. It will be completed at First and Alameda streets in Little Tokyo.

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