Angels Walk founder Deana Molloy, at podium, leads dedication ceremony with, from left, LA Times columunist Patt Morrison, MTA Countywide Planning chief Jim de la Loza, former SCRTD Board Chairman Nick Patsaouras and actor and transit advocate George Takei.

MTA Celebrates LA's History, Helps Dedicate Second Phase of Angels Walk

By ED SCANNELL

(Jan. 11) The rich history of Los Angeles took center stage today with the dedication of the second phase of Angels Walk, the self-guided walking tour of downtown LA historic sites.

Representatives from the MTA joined elected officials and community leaders at the Japanese American National Museum in a ceremony to commemorate this colorful link to the city's past and future.

Angels Walk was launched in 1997 with the support of the MTA to encourage pedestrian exploration of the Bunker Hill/Historic Core District of downtown Los Angeles.

The new phase takes the explorer further back in Los Angeles history to the early Native American village, Yang-na, home of the Tongva Indians, which became the settlement El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Angeles. The name of the burgeoning settlement eventually was

shortened to Los Angeles.

Journey through early days

"Angels Walk takes the pedestrian on a journey through the early days of Los Angeles up to the present day," said Deanna Molloy, founder and executive director of Angels Walk LA. "It tells the story of the places, events and people whose ambitions, hopes and dreams shaped the City of Angels."

The second phase of Angels Walk includes 15 walk sites which span the city's history with an eye to the future.

The sites include the Patsaouras Transit Plaza/MTA Building, Union Station, El Pueblo de Los Angeles, Gateway to Chinatown, Los Angeles Mall/Fletcher Bowron Square, Roybal Federal Building, Little Tokyo (three sites, including the Japanese American National Museum), the Los Angeles Times, City Hall, Court of Flags/Civic Mall/Criminal Courts Building, Music Center and Disney Concert Hall.

YOU ARE HERE -- George Takei and Jim de la Loza; LA Times columnist Patt Morrison, followed by Nick Patsaouras at the podium, and with Takei.
PHOTOS BY JOSÉ UBALDO

Angels Walk serves as an extension of the public transit system in downtown Los Angeles and includes convenient connections to the Metro Red Line, the Metro Blue Line, the Metro Bus system, DASH buses and Amtrak.

"The MTA recognizes the need to promote programs such as Angels Walk that integrate the pedestrian element into the transportation system," said Jim de la Loza, executive officer, Countywide Planning. "Angels Walk weaves a historical thread through downtown Los Angeles that both educates and fascinates."

'Classroom without walls'

In December, 1999, the MTA took part in the dedication of the first of 30 millennium markers to be installed along Angels Walk. The 12-foot tall cylindrical markers serve collectively as a "classroom without walls," highlighting the history and significance of their locations through the use of photographs and text written by Los Angeles Times columnists Patt Morrison and Cecilia Rasmussen.

The markers are located in the areas around the public transit system and

each features an area map that shows the proximity of Angels Walk to the Metro Red Line. Fabrication of the markers was funded by the MTA, the Community Redevelopment Agency and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation.

The first phase of Angels Walk includes the following sites: the Ronald Reagan Building, Spring Street Streetscape, Biddy Mason Park, the Bradbury Building, Million Dollar Theater Building, Grand Central Market, Angels Flight(Railway, The Omni Los Angeles Hotel, Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Watercourt at California Plaza, Wells Fargo Center, Wells Fargo History Museum, ARCO Center and the Calder Sculpture.

Also, the Plaza Orchard, Hope Street Overpass, Bunker Hill Steps, The Los Angeles Public Library, Maguire Gardens, Merchants' Row/Seventh Street, Macy's Plaza, Fine Arts Building, Figueroa Tower, 7th Street/Metro Center and Ernst & Young Plaza.

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