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Metro Breaks Ground on New State-of-the-Art Transit Facility at the El Monte Station: Upgrade and Expansion of El Monte Station Part of ExpressLanes Project

Wednesday September 22, 2010

Metro joined local elected officials today for a groundbreaking ceremony to officially mark the beginning of construction on a new state-of-the-art transit facility that will revamp and expand the current El Monte Station.

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Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Chairman Don Knabe, at center with County Supervisors and Metro Directors Gloria Molina and Mark Ridley-Thomas, join officials - including Metro CEO Art Leahy, State Assemblyman Mike Eng, Duarte City Councilman and Metro Director John Fasana, El Monte Mayor Andre Quintero, Arcadia City Councilman Roger Chandler, FTA Team Leader Ray Tellis and Caltrans District 7 Deputy Director Frank Quon at groundbreaking for ExpressLanes project. (Photo by Luis Inzunza)

The upgrade to the current facility, which first opened in 1973, is part of the Congestion Reduction Demonstration Program known as ExpressLanes and is funded by a \$210 million federal grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Metro and Caltrans District 7, along with Foothill Transit, Gardena Transit, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, MetroLink and Torrance Transit are partnering in a one-year demonstration project during which existing carpool lanes on the I-10 El Monte Busway (between Alameda Street and I-605) and the I-110 Harbor Transitway (between Adams Boulevard and the Artesia Transit Center) will be converted to High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes called ExpressLanes.

The upgrading of the El Monte Bus Station is an essential part of the success of the ExpressLanes project in an effort to provide commuters, regardless of income level, with new and better travel options along two of LA County's most congested corridors. ExpressLanes are scheduled to open in

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2012.

“Today marks the beginning of a new era in the San Gabriel Valley as we expand the busiest transit center west of Chicago into a modern, state-of-the-art facility that will increase passenger capacity and increase the number of buses the station can accommodate that will enhance transit services for thousands of daily commuters,” said Metro Board Chair and LA County Supervisor Don Knabe.

The \$45 million El Monte Station construction project will consist of a new two story building that will house a public bus and terminal station with limited retail space, a customer service center and surface parking. Final construction is anticipated to be completed in May 2012.

Currently, approximately 22,000 patrons use the facility daily. It is the largest bus station west of Chicago and is used by Metro, Foothill Transit, Greyhound, El Monte Transit and Metrolink Shuttle.

Once completed, the facility will be twice its current size and include modern amenities including variable message signs, intercoms, closed circuit television, solar panels, wayfinding equipment and information displays, new elevators and escalators, a transit store, bike stations and lockers. Public art by renowned artist Donald Lipski also will be incorporated in the station as part of Metro’s public art program.

Project highlights of the new facility include an increase in daily passenger capacity by 82 percent (from 22,000 to 40,000), increase in bus bays by 87 percent (from 16 to 30), installation of 30 bike lockers/storage units, better accommodations for both 40-foot and 60-foot buses and enhanced law enforcement presence. The station also will support additional bus service on the I-10 El Monte Busway to enhance the performance of the I-10 ExpressLanes Demonstration Project.

The new facility will use energy efficient and sustainable building methods and will be built to Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEEDS) Gold standards. Construction of the new facility will generate more than 350 construction-related jobs.

The construction work at the El Monte Station is being done by KPRS Construction Services based in Brea under contract to Metro.

In August, Metro completed construction of a temporary bus station in an adjacent lot to accommodate passengers using the station during construction. Parking for El Monte Station patrons will be available to the north and south of the temporary bus terminal, including a recently added parking lot.

Metro will make every effort to minimize impacts to patrons during the construction period. Signs guiding both vehicles and pedestrians around the transit center will be posted and pedestrians will be redirected to safe areas outside the construction zone.

For construction updates and information, the public can call Metro’s Community Relations Construction Impact Hotline at 213-922-7900 or visit metro.net/elmonte.



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