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ELECTED OFFICIALS, LABOR CALL FOR CONSTRUCTION TO CONTINUE ON PHASE 2 OF THE EXPO LINE

Los Angeles, CA – Joined by labor leaders and construction workers who are currently building the Expo Line Phase 2 project from Culver City to Santa Monica, elected officials and the Exposition Construction Authority today announced the filing of the opposition to a motion by a small group of homeowners to stop all construction, citing the massive costs and devastating impacts it would have on the regional economy and traffic.

The motion, filed by Neighbors for Smart Rail (NFSR), would bring construction to a standstill on the \$1.5 billion Phase 2 project. Work on the project is well underway along the entire Phase 2 corridor, including construction of multiple bridges and major structural elements.

“Granting an injunction will deliver a devastating blow to Los Angeles County communities already hard hit by the recession,” said Expo Board Chair and Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. “These communities have double-digit unemployment rates and delaying the project would only send hundreds of local construction workers back to the unemployment line.”

“Delaying the project for a year would cost \$90 million and result in the loss of more than 4,000 direct and indirect jobs,” said Expo Board Member and Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. “The harm to the economy, local jobs and our efforts to build a modern transit system would be substantial.”

“We have faith that the California Supreme Court will allow construction of Expo Phase 2 to continue,” said Expo Construction Authority CEO Rick Thorpe. “The impact of shutting the project down at this point would be enormous.”

Despite losing in both Superior Court and the State Appellate Court, the small group of homeowners continues to challenge the project. Asking the Court to halt construction at this point, after work has been underway for more than a year, would significantly harm the project and the public. The motion filed by NFSR is currently pending a Supreme Court decision on their appeal and there is no date for the Supreme Court to hear the case.

About the Expo Line

Service on Phase 1 of the Expo Line began in Spring 2012. Construction on Phase 2 is expected to be complete in late 2015. The Expo Line will bring greater mobility to the region by connecting west Los Angeles to the region’s existing rail network. These communities are traditionally underserved by public transportation and among the most traffic-congested in the nation.