



Exposition Construction Authority

707 Wilshire Boulevard, 34th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213.243.5500
BuildExpo.org

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CONTACT: Gabriela G. Collins
Exposition Construction Authority
213-243-5535
gcollins@exporail.net

ELECTED OFFICIALS MARK LATEST MILESTONE AND HIGHLIGHT SAFETY DURING EXPO LINE TRAIN TESTING

Los Angeles, CA (April 18, 2011) – Elected officials toured a nearly complete Expo Line station today, reiterating safety precautions to be taken during light rail testing in the months before the line opens. Expo board members previewed the city’s newest light rail line as a test train pulled in and out of the Expo/Western station in South Los Angeles.

In anticipation of the opening of the Expo Line, Metro’s Rail Safety Education personnel have been conducting safety presentations for the past year to schools, libraries, recreation centers, senior centers and religious institutions along the project alignment to provide safety training. Also, with testing underway, Metro Rail Safety Ambassadors are now stationed at key locations along the alignment to help the public get accustomed to the light rail line.

“The goal is to keep everyone safe as trains are tested on the tracks and continue to be safe when it opens this fall,” said Rick Thorpe, CEO of the Exposition Construction Authority.

Testing on the Expo Line from downtown Los Angeles to Culver City started earlier this month and will continue intermittently for the next several months. To ensure continued safety, pedestrians and motorists are requested to obey warning signs and traffic signals when crossing tracks, look both ways before crossing streets, never walk on the tracks, watch for trains from both directions, and use designated crosswalks at all times. For the latest on construction activities and testing schedules, visit www.BuildExpo.org.

The Expo Line will provide faster, more reliable public transit and increase the capacity of the transportation system in Los Angeles County. Phase 1 of the Expo Line, between downtown Los Angeles and Culver City, is 88% complete and will open to the La Cienega/Jefferson station this fall.

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