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CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON MASS TRANSIT LINE TO SANTA MONICA

Officials marked the start of construction today on Phase 2 of the Expo Line project, the light rail extension from Culver City to Santa Monica. Exposition Construction Authority Board Members, local elected officials and community stakeholders gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony at the future Expo Line terminus station at 4th Street and Colorado Avenue in Santa Monica.

"The Expo Line to Santa Monica marks the first rail transit line connecting the Westside of Los Angeles to downtown L.A. in more than half a century, and it is long overdue," said L.A. County Supervisor and Expo Board Chair Zev Yaroslavsky. "The demand for this service is very high and, as a result, we expect that the Expo Line will be one of the most heavily used light rail lines in the nation."

The Expo Phase 2 project is funded through voter-approved Measure R sales tax revenue as well as state and local funds. The Expo Board of Directors approved the project's Final Environmental Impact Report in February 2010 and has awarded construction contracts worth over \$560 million. The \$1.5 billion project will include seven new stations at key destinations along the corridor.

"Today's groundbreaking is a major milestone for the Expo Line project and a time to celebrate as we begin to construct this vital link to the regional transportation system," said Exposition Construction Authority CEO Rick Thorpe.

Once completed, the light rail extension will improve mobility in the region by connecting the Westside to the existing Metro Rail network, and will provide a faster and more reliable way to travel from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica. Train testing is now underway on the first segment of the Expo Line, from downtown Los Angeles to Culver City, and a portion of the line is expected to open later this year or early next year pending the conclusion of testing. More information is available at www.BuildExpo.org.

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