



Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority

4900 Rivergrade Rd. Ste. A120 Irwindale, CA 91706 (626) 962-9292 fax (626) 962-3552 www.theaceproject.org

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Contact: Paul Hubler
ACE Construction Authority

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Cell (626) 379-4937; Office (626) 962-9292

UNDERPASS PROJECT AT RAILROAD CROSSING KICKS OFF CONSTRUCTION

Baldwin Avenue project will replace congested railroad crossing, eliminating traffic delays and collisions and reducing emissions

(Feb. 1, 2013) – Federal, state, local and railroad officials gathered today to kick off construction of a four-lane roadway underpass with double-track railroad bridge to replace a congested railroad crossing on Baldwin Avenue in the City of El Monte.

The railroad crossing is located north of Valley Boulevard and south of Lower Azusa Road on Baldwin Avenue, a main north-south thoroughfare connecting Interstates 10 and 210. Baldwin Avenue is used daily by 28,000 vehicles, including significant truck traffic, and blocked by an average of 20 Union Pacific freight trains a day. Two collisions have been logged at the crossing over the last 10 years.

“Today’s groundbreaking marks the start of a project that will eliminate train delays, deadly crossing collisions and locomotive horn blasts, help improve our region’s air quality and create 1,370 jobs over two years of construction,” said City of San Gabriel Councilman David R. Gutierrez, Chairman of the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE). “We thank our federal, state, local and railroad partners for providing the funding support needed to get this project under construction.”

Baldwin Avenue is scheduled be closed for construction this summer with the \$75.9 million project scheduled to open to traffic in 2015. The project is an investment in a program of grade separations along the Alameda Corridor-East Trade Corridor, which accommodates about 60 percent of the containers moved from the nation’s busiest container ports in the San Pedro Bay to the rest of the country via the region’s rail network.

“The City of El Monte appreciates the opportunity to work in partnership with the ACE Construction Authority on this important safety and congestion relief project which will benefit our community for many years,” said El Monte Mayor Pro Tem Norma Macias.

“The Baldwin Avenue project will ease traffic gridlock, reduce emissions, improve safety and facilitate goods movement,” said Congresswoman Judy

MORE—MORE—MORE

About the ACE Project: The ACE program calls for constructing safety improvements at 39 crossings and 22 roadway-railroad grade crossing separations. The ACE Project will relieve traffic congestion, improve safety and reduce emissions and noise at rail crossings while helping ensure the San Gabriel Valley’s continued economic vitality. For a copy of the ACE Project DVD, please call (888) ACE-1426 or visit www.theaceproject.org.

Chu. "I am proud to work with my colleagues in Congress on efforts to secure federal funding for the ACE grade separation projects which will create vital infrastructure for a thriving future."

"The ACE grade separation projects have the united support of the San Gabriel Valley's state representatives and are a key priority in improving mobility, safety, air quality and public health in our region," said State Senator Ed Hernandez, Chair of the San Gabriel Valley State Legislative Caucus.

"Goods movement contributes significantly to our regional and national economic vitality," said California Transportation Commissioner Fran Inman. "State transportation bond funds approved by the voters account for almost half the Baldwin Avenue project cost and will be used to complete construction of the project – a worthy investment of public funds that will continue to provide on-going, long term benefits."

"If we are to improve crossing safety and regional air quality and reduce congestion, we need to support these grade separation projects," said Assemblyman Ed Chau. "Air pollution emissions will be significantly reduced because cars and trucks will not be blocked by trains at busy crossings."

"Los Angeles County's sales tax for transportation has been essential to the continued success of the ACE program," said LA County Metro Chief Executive Officer Art Leahy. "Metro is contributing more than a third of the overall ACE program funding and is committed to remaining a significant sponsor of this important road improvement program."

"The ACE program is a success story for the entire San Gabriel Valley, and I will continue to champion the ACE projects at the Metro Board," said Duarte Mayor John Fasana, the San Gabriel Valley's representative to the LA County Metro Board of Directors.

Guests scheduled to attend the event included Congress-member Judy Chu, State Senators Carol Liu and Ed Hernandez, Assembly-members Ed Chau, Roger Hernandez, Chris Holden, Ian Calderon and Norma Torres, California Transportation Commissioner Fran Inman, FHWA Associate Division Administrator Rick Backlund, Caltrans District Director Michael Miles, MTA Executive Director Art Leahy, MTA Board Director John Fasana, El Monte Mayor Pro Tem Norma Macias and other elected officials and community leaders.

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