



Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority

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CALIF. TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION APPROVES FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT HIGHWAY-RAIL PROJECT IN EL MONTE

(Burbank/February 22, 2012) – The California Transportation Commission voted today to program \$37.6 million from the state Prop 1B Trade Corridors Improvement Fund toward construction of the Baldwin Avenue rail-highway grade separation project in the City of El Monte. With today's funding approval, a construction contract for the project can be awarded this spring by the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE).

"We truly appreciate today's vote of confidence by the California Transportation Commission in ACE's ability to deliver projects," said ACE Board Chairman David R. Gutierrez, Mayor of the City of San Gabriel. "State transportation bond funding approved by the voters in 2006 and allocated by the Commission will be instrumental in all three ACE grade separation projects starting construction this year in El Monte, San Gabriel and Industry, which together will create nearly 11,000 much-needed jobs over multiple years of construction."

The current at-grade crossing is used by about 15 freight trains per day as well as daily Amtrak trains. As an arterial connecting Interstates 10 and 210, Baldwin Avenue carries 28,000 vehicles a day, including substantial truck traffic. Following contract award, workers will begin construction of a four-lane roadway underpass with a double-track railroad bridge. Baldwin Avenue will be closed between Rose and Gidley streets for 18 to 24 months of construction.

The \$85.2 million project will create 1,370 full-time equivalent jobs. The Federal Railroad Administration has recorded two train-vehicle collisions at the crossing in the past 10 years. The rail-highway grade separation will eliminate the potential for train-vehicle collisions, delays for emergency responders, locomotive horn and crossing gate noise and emissions from idling vehicles when train gates are down.

The ACE program of highway-rail grade separations and safety improvements in the San Gabriel Valley was initiated in 1998 along the inland ACE Trade Corridor carrying goods to and from the San Pedro Bay ports. The ports are the nation's busiest, handling 44 percent of the country's containerized imports, 90 percent of California's imports and 75 percent of its exports. Nearly 60 percent of the containers travel inland along the ACE Trade Corridor to destinations across the country.

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About the ACE Project: The ACE Project, sponsored by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, will relieve traffic congestion and improve safety around rail crossings while helping ensure the San Gabriel Valley's continued economic vitality. The ACE program calls for constructing safety improvements and roadway-railroad grade crossing separation projects. For a copy of the ACE Project DVD, please call (888) ACE-1426 or visit www.theaceproject.org.