



Tim Spohn

**Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority
Hon. Tim Spohn,
Chairman, Board of Directors
City of Industry
Councilman**

Public investment in transportation infrastructure is especially needed in Los Angeles County, where unemployment has lingered above the national average for several years and which has been designated the most congested metropolitan area in nation.

The good news is that the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE) will start construction of several grade separation projects (where the road goes over or under the railroad) in 2012, creating 11,000 jobs. Once these projects in the Cities of El Monte, San Gabriel, and Industry near Rowland Heights, are completed, crossing congestion chokepoints will be eliminated, safety and system reliability improved, emissions reduced and growth in our goods movement sector sustained.

Goods movement is crucial to Southern California's economy, which serves as the nation's leading trade gateway and inland corridor, handling more than 40% of all containerized imports. Nearly 60% of the trade arriving at the San Pedro Bay ports transits through the inland areas, imposing traffic and environmental burdens.

By next year, ACE will be under construction or have completed 14 grade separations. Existing and future conditions at the remaining rail-roadway crossings have been evaluated based on congestion and collision history and a list of feasible grade separation projects is expected to be adopted soon. These final projects can be completed if funding is made available.

In addition to drawing on existing state and local programs, ACE will seek funding opportunities through multi-year transportation legislation introduced in Congress. In the U.S. Senate, Senator Boxer is championing a robust bill (supported by ACE), which proposes several promising programs for freight projects, including grade separations. With the support of our federal, state and local representatives, ACE will continue to make progress and complete its program of goods movement improvements for the benefit of our region and our nation.

For more information please visit www.theaceproject.org or call (888) ACE-1426.