



For ACE, Major Projects in Industry, El Monte and San Gabriel



The amount of commercial rail traffic that runs through the San Gabriel Valley is expected to increase by 60 percent within the next two decades, and that means intersections at rail grade crossings within the region are likely to see a big spike in vehicle congestion.

The Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority has been working to address this issue through its extensive grade separations. Within the year, ACE will move forward with three major projects in Industry, El Monte and San Gabriel.

“The overall scope of the project is to create safety improvements at all of the crossings, and to construct 22 grade separations where the roads will be physically separated from the railroad crossings,” said ACE chief executive officer Rick Richmond.

The three projects are part of the 14 rail grade separations that make up Phase I of ACE’s program. Projects from this phase will be either complete or underway by the end of this year.

Of the mentioned projects, the 2.2-mile San Gabriel Trench grade separation will require the largest

undertaking. The plan calls for the lowering of a 1.4-mile section of Union Pacific railroad track in a trench through the city.

The \$498.5 million project will also require the construction of overpass bridges at Ramona Street, Mission Road, Del Mar Avenue and San Gabriel Boulevard.

Temporary and alternating closures of the aforementioned streets will be required during construction, and one lane in each direction of San Gabriel Boulevard will remain open.

In El Monte, a double-track railroad bridge will be constructed over a four-lane depressed roadway on Baldwin Avenue.

The \$80.5 million project will require the closure of Baldwin Avenue between Rose and Gidley streets during the 18 to 24 month construction period. Temple City Boulevard and Arden Drive through Lower Azusa Road and Valley Boulevard will be used as detours.

The Nogales Street rail grade crossing in the City of Industry has long been a choke point for vehicle traffic. ACE has planned the construction of a six-lane underpass and a double-track railway bridge over Nogales Street between San Jose Avenue and Gale Avenue / Walnut Drive.

The \$97.5 million project will require the closure of Nogales Street will between San Jose Avenue and Gale Avenue / Walnut Drive. North-south traffic will be encouraged to use Fairway Drive and Fullerton Road during construction.

The three projects slated for this year are expected to create nearly 12,000 construction jobs over the next three to four years.

With \$1.13 billion of the necessary funding secured for Phase I, the next step is to secure funding for the final 8 grade separations that have been adopted to complete Phase II of the ACE program.

At an estimated cost of \$730 million, two-thirds of





funds for Phase II have been secured from local, state and federal sources. That leaves a funding shortfall of about \$260 million.

ACE will pursue additional funding sources, including opportunities for additional Measure R funds while the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Los Angeles County work on a voter initiative to extend measure R.

“Given our experience to date with the projects that we built we are optimistic that we can get the remaining resources that we need to try to finish the full scope of the project,” Richmond said. ●

ACE Projects Will Create Jobs, Ease Trade and Reduce Congestion



**By the Hon. David R. Gutierrez
Chairman, Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority**

As our economy slowly recovers from recession, the Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) Construction Authority stands to create

more than 11,000 jobs starting this summer and fall with the award of construction contracts for major roadway-rail grade separation projects in the San Gabriel Valley.

The Baldwin Avenue grade separation project in El Monte and the Nogales Street grade separation project in the City of Industry/unincorporated Los Angeles County will create just under 1,500 jobs each and ACE’s largest single project, the San Gabriel Trench grade separation, is projected to create almost 9,000 jobs over four years of construction.

As these projects start construction, the ACE Construction Authority is simultaneously preparing to begin or continue design of the following six grade separation projects: Fullerton Road near the

60 freeway, Hamilton Boulevard in Pomona, Fairway Drive near Valley Boulevard (subject to railroad concurrence), Fairway Drive near the 60 freeway, Puente Avenue near Valley Boulevard and Durfee Avenue in Pico Rivera.

The ACE grade separation projects sustain and mitigate the impacts of growth in imports and exports through the San Pedro Bay ports, which accommodate more than 40 percent of our nation’s containerized imports and the majority of California’s exports. These grade separations in the San Gabriel Valley are part of the larger ACE Trade Corridor, designated by Congress as a Project of National and Regional Significance, which accommodates approximately 60 percent of the port containers moved inland via the region’s transcontinental rail/highway network. The ACE grade separation projects are integral components of a regional strategy to encourage goods movement by train rather than by trucks on our congested freeways, an approach growing in importance as trade and train traffic continue to rebound.

To complete construction of the ACE program, we are seeking additional Federal, State and local funds. Federal transportation legislation being negotiated in Washington, DC offers the potential to fund nationally and regionally significant freight projects such as the ACE grade separations. And, if voters are to be asked this November to extend the Measure R half-cent sales tax for transportation projects in Los Angeles County, we will seek to ensure that additional revenues are made available to complete the ACE program. ACE was successful earlier this year in securing newly available state bond funding, and we will continue to work to ensure we can take advantage of future funding opportunities to complete the ACE grade separation projects.

David R. Gutierrez is Chairman of the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority and a City of San Gabriel Councilman. For more information about the ACE Project, please call 888.ACE.1426 or visit www.theaceproject.org.