



Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority

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UTILITY RELOCATION AND DEMOLITION BEGUN FOR NOGALES STREET PROJECT

Work to make way for roadway widening and grade separation

The Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE) today announced that utility relocation and demolition work has begun and will continue next month in preparation for the \$95.9 million Nogales Street Grade Separation and Roadway Widening Project in the City of Industry and Rowland Heights. The award of a construction contract for the double-track railway bridge and six-lane roadway underpass between San Jose Avenue and Gale Avenue/Walnut Drive North is anticipated in Spring 2012.

"The Nogales Street Grade Separation Project will eliminate one of the most congested and hazardous at-grade highway-railroad crossings in Southern California, and I am pleased that the early work is moving ahead," said ACE Board Chairman Tim Spohn, a City of Industry Councilman.

A gas station at the northwest corner of Nogales Street and Gale Avenue was demolished in August. Demolition work will continue next month on a vacant building at the southeast corner of San Jose Avenue and Nogales Street as well as the relocation of Verizon underground telecommunication lines at Gale Avenue/Walnut Drive North and Nogales Street. Prior to starting underpass construction, Gale Avenue and Walnut Drive North at Nogales Street will be widened to two lanes in each direction to ease traffic congestion.

The project will relieve congestion by eliminating 80 minutes of gate down time on a major arterial travelled by 46,000 vehicles which are intermittently blocked each day by the passage of 33 freight and 21 Metrolink passenger trains. The project will improve safety at a crossing where four train vs. vehicle collisions were recorded between 2003 and 2009 and which was ranked no. 3 in LA County and no. 5 in California on the California Public Utilities Commission's grade separation priority list. The project will create 1,480 jobs in Los Angeles County, a federal Economically Distressed Area with a 24-month average unemployment rate of 12.4% and an unemployment rate 4.2% higher than the national average in July 2011.

The Nogales Street project will be ACE's eighth project to begin construction and is part of a program of constructing 20 highway-railroad grade separations in the San Gabriel Valley along the 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% of the containers travel inland along the ACE Trade Corridor to destinations across the country.

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 at 39 grade crossings and 20 roadway-railroad grade crossing separation projects. For a copy of the ACE Project DVD, please call (888) ACE-1426 or visit www.theaceproject.org.