ALAMEDA CORRIDOR-EAST CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Tim Spohn, Chair, City Councilman City of Industry



Even with the recent recession, cargo container volumes at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which handle more than 40% of the nation's container trade, are expected to triple by 2035, straining Los Angeles County's roads, freeways, railroads and ports. Trade growth, coupled with plans to improve

rail facilities near the docks, will result in more frequent and longer trains crossing the San Gabriel Valley.

To cope with surging rail traffic, the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE) is responsible for constructing safety upgrades and grade separations (where the road goes over or under railroad tracks) in the San Gabriel Valley. Grade separations reduce emissions; eliminate train delays and the potential for deadly collisions at busy crossings. And, these significant and long-lasting infrastructure improvements help sustain the recovery of our region's crucial construction and goods movement sectors.

With a program calling for 20 grade separation projects at the busiest crossings in the San Gabriel Valley, ACE has completed construction on the first five projects and construction is well underway or funded for the next five projects. The remaining 10 grade separation projects will be funded from 2006 state transportation bond funds, \$400 million in Los Angeles County Metro Measure R sales tax funds to be programmed in early 2010 as well as federal and other funds, which are being sought.

In 2010, ACE looks forward to awarding a construction contract to build a roadway underpass and railroad bridge on Baldwin Avenue, a thoroughfare in the City of El Monte connecting two interstate highways. ACE has applied for federal recovery act discretionary funds to support the Baldwin Avenue project which will yield 1,370 full-time equivalent jobs – a much needed boost to the City of El Monte which is classified as a disadvantaged community because median income falls below 80% of statewide household income.

Also in 2010, ACE anticipates awarding a construction contract to construct a grade separation project on Nogales Street, immediately north of Interstate 60 in the City of Industry. The grade separation would relieve a bottleneck on Nogales Street, which carries nearly 50,000 vehicles a day, and the project would create an estimated 1,480 full-time equivalent jobs.

In 2011, ACE is scheduled to award a contract to construct a 2.1-mile train trench with bridges built at four street crossings in the City of San Gabriel. The San Gabriel Trench Grade Separation Project is in design and environmental study, and would create 8,964 full-time equivalent jobs.

ACE is continuing to work hard to improve mobility, increase safety, and improve air quality and foster economic vitality in the San Gabriel Valley. If you have questions, please visit the ACE website at www.theaceproject.org or call the ACE Helpline at (888) ACE-1426.