



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Metro Gold Line Construction Authority to Outline Public-Private Partnership Strategy for Firms Seeking to Build the Foothill Extension *Information about the innovative financing mechanism will be presented to firms at an informational workshop about the 11-mile light rail line extension*

WHAT: Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority Chief Executive Officer Habib Balian will outline the public-private partnership strategy, which will help the line get built sooner, cheaper and on time. The 11-mile extension of the Gold Line from Pasadena to Azusa will be funded through Measure R sales taxes and appropriated through the Los Angeles County Transportation Authority's (Metro) Long-Range Transportation Plan. Metro is expected to consider approval of the long-range plan at its October meeting. Metro Board Chair Ara Najarian will deliver a keynote introduction explaining how the Foothill Extension fits into Metro's regional transportation plans.

The meeting presents an opportunity to talk with representatives of large engineering firms about how the county's new transit sales tax can stimulate the local economy and get people to work.

The plan provides more than \$875 million for the Foothill Extension to help pay for construction of the iconic freeway structure over Foothill (210) Freeway and the 11-mile light rail line, as well as construction of a maintenance yard to serve Metro's entire light-rail fleet and the purchase of rail cars. The funding will be allocated between 2010 and 2019. The Construction Authority would like expedite construction to create construction industry-related jobs, get people riding mass transit as soon as possible to relieve freeway congestion and reduce emissions from vehicles. The Construction Authority has set the groundbreaking for June 2010 and opening in 2013.

WHO:

- Habib Balian, CEO, Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority
- Ara Najarian, Chair, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Representatives of engineering firms

WHEN: Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009
8:30 a.m.

WHERE: Doubletree Hotel
924 W. Huntington Drive,
Monrovia, CA 91016

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About the Metro Gold Line

The Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority is an independent transportation planning and construction agency created in 1998 by the California State Legislature. Its purpose is to extend the Metro Gold Line (which opened to Pasadena in 2003) eastward to Montclair, enhancing the transportation experience of commuters in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The Metro Gold Line light rail system opened in 2003, connecting downtown Los Angeles to Pasadena. Funds from Los Angeles County Measure R half-cent sales tax increase (approved in November 2008) will be available for the construction of Foothill Extension from Sierra Madre Villa station in Pasadena to Azusa, beginning in 2010.