



Gold Line...

Mobility, Clean Air and Quality of Life

"It creates an opportunity for transportation in the region that's free of oil and gas that generates pollution. It's significant to have that choice."

– John Fasana
Metro Board Member and
Duarte City Councilmember

A few short weeks after a March 5th opening, Metro's Foothill Gold Line extension trains and parking lots began filling up, especially during peak hours.

"I think there's a great demand for the system," said Metro Board Member John Fasana, who is also a Duarte City Councilmember. "This extension gives people in these communities who work in Pasadena or work downtown an option other than a car. Just having a choice to be able to use other means to get around in the Los Angeles basin other than a car is beneficial to the communities."



Local, state and federal dignitaries gather for the grand opening of the Foothill Gold Line extension. Pictured in front row from left to right are Supervisors Hilda Solis and Mike Antonovich, Congresswomen Judy Chu and Grace Napolitano, L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Duarte Councilman John Fasana, Gold Line CEO Habib Balian, Claremont Mayor Sam Pedroza, Irwindale Mayor Mark Breceda and Arcadia Mayor Gary Kovacic.

Communities Welcome Gold Line Extension

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The 11.5-mile extension runs from Pasadena to Azusa with stops in between in Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte and Irwindale. Add that to the existing Gold Line from Pasadena to East Los Angeles and it's now 31 miles, the longest light-rail line in Los Angeles.

Ridership on the original Gold Line hit 46,608 riders per day on weekdays as of January. The extension is expected to increase ridership by 15,000 by 2035.

"That is a conservative estimate and we think we'll surpass that," said Habib Balian, chief executive of the Metro Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority. "You are going to see ridership grow as development happens around the stations."

That development is already underway in Monrovia, where Station Square Park has opened and construction has begun on residential, retail and entertainment venues. Other cities along the extension are also planning development around the new stations. Together, said Balian, the

The Duarte station features four vertical sculptures with painted steel bases and hand-carved limestone capitals.

trains and development will positively impact those communities.

"Anything that anyone can do to avoid sitting on the freeway for an hour a day will improve quality of life," Balian said. "I think you're going to start seeing households that don't have two cars. The rail is making that possible and the development around the rail is making that possible. It helps environmentally and financially and all that improves the quality of life."

Fasana sees the train as a great way to bring people to places like City of Hope in Duarte, the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Santa Anita



Above, on the train from left are Metro Board Member and Los Angeles City Mayor Eric Garcetti, Parsons Transportation Group Senior Vice President Kevin Haboian, Metro Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority CEO Habib Balian and his son, Edward. Below, opening festivities at the Duarte station.





Metro's Arcadia station features artwork by San Pedro artist Mike Davis including a canopy designed to look like peacock feathers and steel panels featuring galloping horses.

Racetrack in Arcadia and even from the rails to the mountain trails in the future with shuttle services.

"It creates an opportunity for transportation in the region that's free of oil and gas that generates pollution. It's significant to have that choice," Fasana said. "We can build on that with bicycle and pedestrian options to create transportation opportunities that are easier on the environment."

Another environmentally friendly facet of the Gold Line extension is the 24-acre Operations Campus in Monrovia. The 132,000-square-foot main shop building was designed and built to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standards.

"In 2007-2008, sustainability was the last thing on anyone's mind when we started to plan for the maintenance campus," Balian said. "From 2007-2011, solar had come such a long way and was accepted so much more in industrial uses. We worked with our contractor to create this translucent solar canopy."

The solar canopy has 714 panels that produce 22,000-kilowatt hours per month. The site also captures and filters stormwater, uses reclaimed water to wash the trains, has drought-tolerant landscaping and employs many other energy efficient and water-saving technologies.

Sustainability is on the planners' minds as they look ahead to the next Gold Line extension from Glendora to Montclair. "We're looking into putting solar and water conservation technologies into parking garages," Balian said. The next phase is dependent on voter approval of a November ballot measure.

"We have to ask: How do we address some of the environmental challenges that we have today? Are we going to be part of the problem or part of the solution?" Fasana said. "I think we found out that not only can Metro be part of the solution but it just makes good business sense to do so. So, we can use taxpayer dollars to provide additional service." ○



Metro Board Chairman and LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas with Congresswoman Grace Napolitano at the grand opening of the Gold Line extension at the new Duarte station.

