

Los Angeles Eastside Light Rail Transit Project

MTA Project Will Bring Close to \$500 Million In Federal Funds Into State of California

- > **Issue:** The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is in the process of securing a Full Funding Grant Agreement* (FFGA) in the amount of \$491 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation for construction of the Eastside Light Rail Line. A combination of MTA and State funds will also be used to build the light rail line.
- > **Action Needed:** For Governor-Elect Schwarzenegger to convey his full support for the Eastside Project by encouraging the U.S. Department of Transportation to issue, without delay, a FFGA.
- > **Status:** The MTA has entered into the last stages of securing the FFGA. A decision on the FFGA is expected shortly from the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Norm Mineta.
- > **Bush Administration Position:** President Bush supports the granting of a FFGA for the Eastside Project and expressed this fact in his FY03 Budget. President Bush requested \$55 million for the Eastside Project in his FY04 Budget.
- > **Federal, State and Local Support:** The Eastside Project enjoys the full support of area Members of Congress, State Legislators, City Councilmembers and a large number of prominent community organizations and leaders.
- > **Project Description:** The Eastside Project is a six-mile light rail transit system that will run from Union Station in downtown Los Angeles to East Los Angeles. The right-of-way for the alignment either has or is in the process of being acquired and most other aspects of the project are ready for the construction phase. The Eastside Project will provide linkage to an expanding Metro Rail network, empowering its riders with the ability to move across Los Angeles County.
- > **Benefits:** Approval of a FFGA for the Eastside Project will bring close to half a billion federal dollars back into the State of California. The Eastside Project will serve one of the most transit-dependent populations in the nation and will bring economic vitality to an area where the average annual household income is below \$25,000.

According to employment experts, construction of the Eastside Project will generate over 45,000 short-term jobs and over 1,000 long-term jobs. From the planned Little Tokyo/ Arts District station to its terminus, this dynamic, innovative, and much-anticipated light rail line will help strengthen East Los Angeles in all respects.

* An FFGA is an instrument that defines the scope of a Project, the Federal financial contribution to that Project, and other terms and conditions.

