

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY TRIBUNE

LOCAL NEWS

Why 90,000 drivers in San Gabriel won't have to wait for trains anymore



FILE PHOTO. The inaugural train commemorating the newly constructed 1.4-mile San Gabriel Trench passes under the Ramona Street bridge (rear) adjacent to the San Gabriel Mission during a ceremonial grand opening in San Gabriel, Calif. July 24, 2017. The 30-foot-deep trench is part of the transcontinental Alameda Corridor-East railroad corridor. Constructed by the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE) to eliminate crossing congestion, collisions, train horn noise and reduce vehicle emissions. (Photo by Leo Jarzomb, SGV Tribune/ SCNG)

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A **1.4-mile railroad trench in eastern Los Angeles County** that officially opened Monday will improve traffic and safety in the city of San Gabriel, according to officials. The 30-foot-deep, **65-foot-wide San Gabriel Trench is spanned** by four newly constructed roadway bridges and was completed following four years of construction. The \$293.7 million project is the largest in the \$1.7 billion Alameda Corridor-East program of 19 roadway-rail grade separations.

“The San Gabriel community and region is celebrating the dedication of the San Gabriel Trench project,” San Gabriel Councilwoman Juli Costanzo, chair of the Capital Projects and Construction Committee of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments overseeing the ACE program, said in a statement.

“The trench eliminates crossing delays for nearly 90,000 motorists every day, improves safety for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, eliminates locomotive horns and crossing bells and allows our emergency responders to respond more quickly to calls on both sides of the tracks,” she said.

With the dedication of the trench project, a total of 14 of the 19 grade separations in the ACE program have been completed.

“The federal government must continue to provide the resources needed to invest in freight infrastructure to support American competitiveness in global markets while also mitigating the community impacts of nationally significant goods movement in Southern California,” Rep. Judy Chu, D- Pasadena, said in a statement. “I am proud to champion the ACE projects and the San Gabriel Trench in Congress.”

Officials with the project said it was delivered on time and under budget, with cost savings totaling nearly \$99 million in state bond funds reprogrammed to other ACE projects in the San Gabriel Valley. With the dedication of the trench project, a total of 14 of the 19 grade separations in the ACE program have been completed.

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