



Alameda Corridor East Program: San Gabriel Trench Project a Pinnacle Achievement



*By The Honorable Juli Costanzo
Chair, Capital Projects and
Construction Committee
San Gabriel Valley Council
of Governments*

Councilmember, City of San Gabriel

This fall we will hold a dedication ceremony as the final touches are put on the San Gabriel Trench project. The trench is the single largest project in the Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) program and we are very proud to have delivered the project on time and under budget.

Workers have labored since 2012 to construct the 30-foot-deep, 65-foot-wide concrete walled railroad trench stretching for 1.4 miles through the City of San Gabriel and spanned by four roadway bridges. After trains began service in the trench last summer, four busy and hazardous at-grade

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crossings in the City of San Gabriel were able to be decommissioned. No longer are motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians forced to wait at crossings

for long and slow freight trains to pass by. Emergency responders can more quickly respond to calls on both sides of the tracks. Gone are the disruptive locomotive horn blasts and the constant threat of deadly crossing collisions.

As we wrap up work on the \$294 million San Gabriel Trench project, we are proud that the project was delivered under budget. Project cost savings totaling nearly \$99 million have already been recycled into other ACE grade separation projects in the San Gabriel Valley. Additional cost savings are anticipated as the project draws to a close. These savings, too, will be put toward completing the comprehensive ACE program of crossing improvements and rail-roadway grade separations.

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and rail crossing safety and protecting jobs throughout the San Gabriel Valley – one of the most vital and nationally significant freight gateways in the United States. While we are celebrating the completion of the San Gabriel Trench project, our work on the ACE program is not finished. With the completion of the Trench, 16 ACE grade separations – where the road goes over or under the railroad – will have opened to traffic. And another roadway underpass project in the City of Pico Rivera is anticipated to begin construction this winter.

We were happy that two ACE projects in the final design stage, located on Montebello Boulevard in the City of Montebello and another on Turnbull Canyon Road straddling the City of Industry and community of Rowland Heights, were awarded a total of \$78 million in construction funding this spring. However, those funds are from the new California SB 1 gas tax revenues

and a statewide ballot measure this fall threatens to rescind the new revenues. I am pleased to report that the San

“...the remaining ACE projects to be funded from SB 1 are worthy investments of public funds that will deliver long-term safety, mobility, air quality and community benefits to our region, state and nation.”


Gabriel Valley Council of Governments voted in July to oppose the repeal measure and preserve these much-needed transportation revenues. As with the San Gabriel Trench project, the

remaining ACE projects to be funded from SB 1 are worthy investments of public funds that will deliver long-term safety, mobility, air quality and community benefits to our region, state and nation. □




Juli Costanzo is a Councilmember in the City of San Gabriel and Chair of the Capital Projects and Construction Committee of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, which is responsible for the Alameda


Corridor-East program. For more information about the ACE projects, please visit www.theaceproject.org or call the ACE Helpline at (888) ACE-1426.



Alameda Corridor-East Project

*San Gabriel Valley
Council of Governments*





The ACE Project:

- ◆ **Increases Safety**
Construct railway-roadway separations at 19 crossings and safety enhancements at 39 crossings
- ◆ **Cuts Congestion**
Eliminate train delays of up to 10 to 24 minutes at the busiest crossings
- ◆ **Improves Air Quality**
Eliminate 221 tons of pollution annually by reducing traffic delays
- ◆ **Fosters Economic Vitality**
Help preserve 192,000 new jobs in the San Gabriel Valley

The proposed Montebello Corridor Grade Separation Project includes a roadway underpass at the railroad crossing on Montebello Boulevard, used daily by more than 20,000 motorists, three-dozen freight trains and over a dozen commuter trains.

Grade Separations Under Construction




Current Situation at Crossings




www.theaceproject.org

(888) ACE-1426