

First freight train passes through new trench next to San Gabriel Mission

By Steve Scauzillo, San Gabriel Valley Tribune

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SAN GABRIEL >> A new, \$313-million grade separation project successfully received its first freight train on Monday, paving the way for the opening of the San Gabriel Trench located adjacent to the historic mission.

• Photos: [The first train chugs through](#)

A ceremonially Union Pacific locomotive train inaugurated train service in the 1.4-mile trench that provides a separate path for the trains moving goods from the Port of Los Angeles and the local roadways for the first time, eliminating the possibility of collisions

and traffic congestion.

The 30-foot deep trench consists of four new bridges for cars, trucks and pedestrians and was built by the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority. Construction began in 2012.

Bridges over Ramona Street, Mission Road, Del Mar Avenue and San Gabriel Boulevard allow vehicles and pedestrians to pass over the tracks.

“The San Gabriel Trench is the largest project we have undertaken. Opening it to rail traffic is the most significant milestone and a cause for great celebration in the city of San Gabriel,” said Mayor Juli Costanzo, chairwoman of the ACE Board of Directors.

Train service officially starts in mid-August, said Ricky Choi, an ACE spokesman. Completion of the project is scheduled for early 2018.

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