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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT

Regional Connector Funding Benefits Foothill Gold Line

Monrovia, CA - *The following statement was issued today by Habib F. Balian, CEO at the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority:*

“Last week, federal and local officials announced award of a nearly \$700 million federal grant for construction of the Regional Connector project in downtown Los Angeles. This was a critical achievement for the county, which was relying on such a grant in their financial planning for the project. The federal grant is the first of its kind to be awarded to the county in nearly two decades and will be added to a number of other funding sources – including Measure R - to provide the full funding needed to build this very complicated and important project.”

“This news is especially significant to the Gold Line and Foothill Gold Line, because the Regional Connector directly benefits our system. Once completed, the Regional Connector will link the Gold Line with the Blue Line systems, and provide seamless trips between Azusa and Long Beach. Additionally, the Construction Authority estimates that ridership on the Gold Line system will increase by 10% once the Regional Connector is operational. That is of course in addition to the tens of thousands of new rides to be initiated once the Foothill Gold Line to Azusa goes on-line, following construction completion in September 2015.”

About the Foothill Gold Line - The Foothill Gold Line is a nearly \$2 billion, 24-mile extension of the Metro Gold Line light rail system being overseen by the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority, an independent transportation planning and construction agency created in 1998 by the California State Legislature. The project is planned in two segments – Pasadena to Azusa and Azusa to Montclair.

The Pasadena to Azusa segment is fully funded by Measure R and is now more than halfway to project completion. The 11.5-mile segment is on-budget and on-schedule to be completed in September 2015, when it will be turned over to Metro for testing and pre-revenue service. Metro will determine when passenger service begins. The Azusa to Montclair segment was environmentally cleared under CEQA in 2013 and will begin advanced conceptual engineering later this year. The Construction Authority is working with Metro to seek the nearly \$1 billion needed to construct the Azusa to Montclair project.

Learn more: foothillextension.org

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