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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority Board Seeks to Improve Transparency and Accountability *New Travel Policies and Expanded Audits under Consideration*

MONROVIA - Reflecting its ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability, the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority Board of Directors on Wednesday gave staff direction to develop new travel policies, and expanded internal reviews of travel and expense documentation.

The Construction Authority's staff had already launched a review of the authority's travel and expense reporting and reimbursement policies and brought the matter to the board for its consideration at last night's meeting.

Based on the board's direction, the staff will develop an updated employee handbook for board review and consideration by the end of the year. The handbook will include enhancements in out-of-state travel and expense policies, as well as other new policies. Once the new handbook is approved, all staff will be required to sign the updated handbook, affirming that they understand and will follow the policies in the handbook. Staff will be required to sign the handbook at their annual review every year thereafter.

"As a public agency, we are committed to operating transparently and being accountable for the appropriate use of taxpayer dollars," said Construction Authority board chairman and Glendora Mayor Doug Tessitor. "We have identified some areas for improvement in our policies, following a recent review that highlighted some inadequacies, and we are moving quickly to address them. The staff already is seeking additional documentation to detail past expenses and a memo has been distributed to staff to remind them of the Construction Authority's policies on documenting all expenses."

He also noted that the board and staff occasionally travel out of state and new policies are needed regarding that travel.

"This agency has done a tremendous job in advancing one of the region's largest and most important transit projects," said Chairman Tessitor. "It has proven its efficiency by completing the Los Angeles to Pasadena segment on time and under budget. By updating our existing policies and implementing new policies, the Construction Authority will achieve even greater transparency and accountability as it helps shape the future of the region's transportation network."

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About the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority

The Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority is an independent transportation planning and construction agency created in 1999 by the California State Legislature. Its purpose is to extend the Metro Gold Line from Union Station to the Los Angeles County Line. The Metro Gold Line light rail line opened in 2003, connecting downtown Los Angeles and Pasadena. Los Angeles County's Measure R half-cent sales tax increase is fully funding the 11.5-mile Foothill Extension project, from Pasadena and Azusa. The Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa broke ground in June 2010, and will be completed in 2015. Three design-build contracts, totaling more than \$500 million will be awarded to complete this effort. Future extensions are also planned.