



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date:** December 9, 2013  
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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

### **FTA Formally Awards \$75 Million for Perris Valley Line Train**

The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) welcomed Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Deputy Administrator Therese McMillan to Perris on Monday. The purpose of her visit was to award \$75 million in federal grant funding for the Perris Valley Line extension of Metrolink.

During a formal ceremony held at the Perris Transit Center, Ms. McMillan was joined by local Congressmen Mark Takano (D-Perris) and Ken Calvert (R-Corona), who both sought funding for the project. A number of local officials also participated in the formal grant signing ceremony.

“Public transit is becoming an especially important part of our transportation network in Riverside County,” said RCTC Chair Karen Spiegel, who is also the Mayor of Corona. “By bringing Metrolink to more of Riverside County, we create a foundation to make the rest of our public transit and overall transportation even stronger.”

The \$247 million project will extend the current Metrolink 91 Line by 24 miles and will include new stops in Perris, South Perris/Menifee, March Air Reserve Base, and the Hunter Business Park in Riverside.

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RCTC bought the rail right of way for the project in 1992 and will begin construction this month. The construction will include track improvements, double tracking in some areas, the construction of new stations, and improved signaling and safety systems.

Prior to the formal signing ceremony, FTA Deputy Administrator McMillan hosted a roundtable discussion with local government and business leaders. The session offered an opportunity for local interests to provide input to the FTA and other federal agencies on local needs and concerns.

One topic that was frequently raised was the nexus between transit investments and the local economy and was raised by Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley and Perris Mayor Daryl Busch, who also serve as officers on the RCTC Board.

“The communities in this area were hit hard by the most recent recession,” Ashley said. “By providing people choices, we provide them with new opportunities and it’s an investment that’s been needed for a long time.”

“Rail service has always been a priority in my community and is ingrained in our history and it’s going to be an important part of our future too,” said Busch. “Transportation can be the lifeblood and foundation to fuel our economy.”

The Perris Valley Line service is expected to open in mid-2015 and is expected to carry more than 4,000 passengers per day.

*For more information on the Perris Valley Line project, please see <http://perrisvalleyline.info/>.*