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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Perris Valley Line Construction to Begin

The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) is about to start construction on the Perris Valley Line Metrolink extension.

A Notice to Proceed has been issued to Ames Construction (based in Corona) to begin work on the 24-mile commuter rail project between Downtown Riverside and South Perris. The go-ahead comes after the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) issued a Letter of No Prejudice that allows the project to move forward.

The \$248 million project extends the existing Metrolink 91 Line which provides service between Riverside, Orange and Los Angeles Counties. The extension work in Riverside adds new stations in the Hunter Park Business Complex in North Riverside, March Air Reserve Base, Downtown Perris and South Perris. The project also marks the first extension of Metrolink since the Antelope Valley Line started service after the Northridge earthquake in 1994.

RCTC officials are eager to move forward with the project and look forward to the beginning of service sometime in 2015.

“Riverside County commuters are one step closer to traffic relief,” said RCTC Chair Karen Spiegel. “Today’s federal action to green-light the Perris Valley Line caps more than a decade of partnership between local and federal governments, the business community, and the taxpayers of Riverside County. Working together, we can create jobs and improve the quality of life in the Inland Empire.”

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Support for the project has come from a variety of sources including the County's Congressional Delegation. Congressman Mark Takano (D-Riverside) played a key role in finalizing federal approval and Congressman Ken Calvert (R-Corona) was instrumental in advocating for federal funding and approval when the project was in the planning phases a number of years ago.

"As a long-time supporter and advocate of the Perris Valley Line project I am truly excited to see construction begin. Riverside County commuters are now one step closer to enjoying the benefits of enhanced transportation options," said Rep. Calvert. "Everyone at RCTC is to be commended for their hard work and dedication to the Perris Valley Line project."

The first phases of construction of the project will begin adjacent to Interstate 215 between Eucalyptus Avenue and Perris. Construction activities will include double-tracking approximately 9 miles of the 24-mile route, constructing new stations, improving rail crossings, installing infrastructure to facilitate quiet zones, and upgrading tracks, ballast, drainage and communications systems. The extension will also be part of Metrolink's Positive Train Control system which will provide state-of-the-art safety protection to avoid train collisions.

Additional information on the project can be found at RCTC's website at www.rctc.org.