



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Perris Valley Line Project Breaks Ground

Earlier today, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) joined with federal, state, and local officials and a number of business leaders to mark the beginning of construction of the 24-mile-long, Perris Valley Metrolink Extension.

The \$248.3 million project will extend the current Metrolink 91 Line to new stations in North Riverside, Moreno Valley/March Field, Downtown Perris and South Perris/Menifee. Once completed, this will be the first expansion of the Metrolink system in terms of added mileage since 1994.

One major theme during the groundbreaking ceremony is the link between effective public transportation and job creation. The event was held near the new office of the UCPath Center near March Air Base. UCPath recently relocated to Riverside and will employ as many as 480 people involved in administrative responsibilities for the University of California. RCTC officials hope that more employers will follow that trend once additional train service is completed.

“Riverside County is an excellent location for employers and businesses,” said RCTC Chair Marion Ashley. “The addition of train service by the end of next year will make it an even more attractive job center.”

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Ashley, who is a Riverside County Supervisor also serves as the Chair of the March Joint Powers Authority, which oversees the joint development of the air base.

In addition to the economic benefits, Congressman Mark Takano (D-Riverside) praised the project for its positive impact on mobility.

“With this brand new Metrolink line, Riverside County commuters will finally be one step closer to traffic relief, as the Perris Valley Line will take an estimated 4,000 cars off the road each day,” said Takano. “Investing in local infrastructure projects is one of the best stimulants for our economy, as they create jobs, increase efficiency, and provide resources for generations to come.”

Business leaders also hailed the project’s importance to the region.

“The extension of train service from Riverside to Perris creates a critical link for Riverside County resident to reach new jobs center,” said Judy Carpenter, President/COO of Riverside Medical Clinic and Chair of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce. “It also creates an opportunity to attract new businesses and employers that will have significant access to a skilled workforce.”

The actual construction project is projected to create as many as 4,000 jobs during the two-year duration of the work. Rail service is expected to begin by December 2015. Funding sources for the project include Riverside County’s voter-approved Measure A program, a \$75 million Federal Transit Administration grant and additional funding from the State of California

“Metrolink has a demonstrated track record in providing transit service for Southern California,” said State Senator Richard Roth. “Bringing the service to more of Riverside County is great news for our region and I can’t wait to hop on board the new line sometime next year.

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

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