Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Center Village

We are transforming the Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Medical Center Village into a center of excellence for healthcare delivery, urban health promotion and prevention, health workforce development, academic research and teaching, and economic development. The County of Los Angeles (County) has earmarked nearly $400 million in public funds to promote quality health and wellness services on the Watts-Willowbrook campus.

The first completed phase of this initiative focuses on health promotion and disease prevention through the construction of a new MLK Center for Public Health. This new $20 Million facility is 12,000 square feet larger than the old South Health Center. It will enable the County to provide expanded prevention services such as immunizations and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, and other communicable diseases. The new public health center’s design promotes community wellness by including a large community meeting room, a new fitness park and a community kitchen for learning and community activities. This facility will complement the new and existing health care services that will be provided at the new MLK Hospital and the MLK Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center (MACC).

Construction of a new MLK Hospital is the next phase of the MLK Medical Center Village. Since the closure of MLK-Harbor Hospital in August 2007, the County has been diligently working to restore inpatient services at the MLK site. Under the stewardship of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, the County of Los Angeles partnered with the University of California to form a new independent non-profit entity to open and operate the new 120-bed MLK Hospital. This innovative public-private partnership will leverage the County’s land, the University of California’s medical staff and the leadership of a new operator to deliver high quality services in a state-of-the-
art facility. Construction of the new 194,000 square-foot inpatient tower is underway. The new MLK Hospital is scheduled to be substantially completed in March of 2013 and will markedly improve the quality of life of Second District residents.

The third phase of the MLK Medical Center Village will include construction of a new Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center (MACC). This new 4-story state-of-the-art 136,000 square-foot building will replace the old existing MACC and house an outpatient ambulatory surgical center, pharmacy and specialty clinics to support the growing healthcare needs of the community. This new center will continue to provide quality specialty care services for the treatment of chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension and chronic heart failure. On October 11, 2011, the Board of Supervisors will vote on the design-build contract, thereby authorizing the construction of the new MLK MACC to begin. The new MACC is expected to be substantially completed by the end of 2013.

Together the investments on the campus of the Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Center are projected to create 5,050 new jobs for the community.

The MLK Medical Center Village includes redevelopment of the education, transportation, and business zones adjacent to the medical center to support the functions of the campus, improve accessibility and revitalize the surrounding community.

The Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) is investing to improve the adjacent Rosa Parks Station in support of the infrastructure investment at the MLK Medical Center through a master planning effort. The Rosa Parks Station serves as the junction for the Metro Blue and Metro Green Lines. It is one of the most heavily used stations in the entire system with over 16,500 people boarding and 14,500 people disembarking at the station each weekday. The plan calls for development of a Transit Oriented District to attract the investment needed to create a sustainable transit station. The proposed plan also includes station upgrades, streetscape improvements, designated parking structures, and a pedestrian plaza. A community planning process is currently underway.