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Contact: Ed Maddox 213-361-6980
emaddox@bos.lacounty.gov

RAIL LINE TO LAX GETS \$546 MILLION BOOST

SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS APPLAUDS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LOAN AS CRUCIAL TO LONG-AWAITED CRENSHAW LINE

LOS ANGELES – Supervisor Ridley-Thomas today joined U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer in announcing a vital U.S. Department of Transportation loan of \$546 million for the eagerly anticipated Crenshaw/LAX Light Rail Line.

“Senator Boxer heard the voices of the Crenshaw community and has led us to this major triumph in our quest for a first-class rail system. It is our hope this massive infusion of federal funds will be used to move passengers to the Crenshaw corridor and on to LAX on a train that goes underground to enhance prosperity without disrupting the streetscapes of our neighborhoods,” Ridley-Thomas said.

The Crenshaw/LAX line represents the largest public works investment in South Los Angeles in history. “This project is the result of tireless efforts of a coalition of organizations and citizens who have joined together to make this vision of a new line a reality, but would not have been possible without the push in Washington from Senator Boxer,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas.

“Not only will this project bring much needed economic development to an important region of the County, but these federal dollars will result in more than 7,800 much needed jobs for our community during the development of this project. I will make every effort to see that these jobs are allocated fairly to both local residents and those who live in ZIP codes that are most impacted by high unemployment,” the Supervisor added.

Construction of the rail line is scheduled to begin in 2012, with a possible completion date of 2016. The line is currently planned to travel from Exposition and Crenshaw Boulevards to LAX via a mixture of street-level, above ground and below ground segments, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas is seeking ways to construct the line below ground to give the historic Crenshaw community the safest and fastest transit system possible, while preserving the integrity of homes, churches, schools and businesses along the route.

For more information on this project visit the following website:
http://www.metro.net/projects/crenshaw_corridor/

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