

The ACE REPORT

ALAMEDA CORRIDOR-EAST
CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY



Dear Friends,

I was honored to be selected earlier this year by the Board of Directors of the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE) to serve as Board Chair. I am also very pleased that my colleague, El Monte Councilmember Victoria Martinez, will serve as Vice Chair. Both Board leadership posts are occupied by women for the first time in ACE's 18-year history!

Victoria and I look forward to providing leadership as ACE focuses on funding and completing its projects to grade separate and improve busy highway freight rail crossings in the San Gabriel Valley. It is especially gratifying to begin my service as ACE Chair at a time when the San Gabriel Trench, ACE's single largest project, is expected to open to rail traffic by the middle of this year. The Trench will separate vehicles and pedestrians from train traffic at four busy crossings at Ramona Street, Mission Road, Del Mar Avenue and San Gabriel Boulevard. The City of San Gabriel is very much looking forward to the completion of the Trench project, which will eliminate collisions, vehicle congestion and train horn noise at the crossings.

ACE looks forward to continuing to make progress on its program of constructing grade separations, where the road goes over or under the railroad, at freight rail crossings as well as safety and other improvements at crossings to remain at-grade. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for us, please do not hesitate to call the ACE Helpline at (888) ACE-1426.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Juli Costanzo

Chair, ACE Construction Authority Board of Directors

Mayor, City of San Gabriel

Inside

ACE JOINS CALL ON CAPITOL HILL FOR FEDERAL INVESTMENT DURING INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK
2

NOGALES ST. ROADWAY UNDERPASS TAPPED AS THE TOP SAFETY PROJECT AT TRANSPORTATION AWARDS EVENT
3

TRAINS TO RUN IN THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SAN GABRIEL TRENCH IN SUMMER
4

ROAD WORK UNDERWAY ON FULLERTON ROAD PROJECT
5

EXCAVATION FOR NEW UNDERPASS ON PUENTE AVENUE BEGINS AS WORK CONTINUES ON VALLEY BOULEVARD BRIDGE
6

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES ON LEMON AVENUE RAMPS FOR FAIRWAY DRIVE PROJECT
8

DURFEE AVENUE PROJECT IN PICO RIVERA IN FINAL DESIGN
9

DESIGN UNDERWAY FOR MONTEBELLO CORRIDOR PROJECT
10

TURNBULL CANYON ROAD PROJECT MOVES TO DESIGN PHASE
11

POMONA AT-GRADE CROSSING SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE
12

ACE VISITS CAPITOL HILL
13



ACE Board Members

Hon. Juli Costanzo / City of San Gabriel / ACE Board Chair

Hon. Victoria Martinez / City of El Monte / ACE Board Vice Chair

Hon. Hilda L. Solis / County of Los Angeles

Hon. Kathryn Barger / County of Los Angeles

Hon. Janice Hahn / County of Los Angeles

Hon. Mark Radecki / City of Industry

Hon. Jack Hadjinian / City of Montebello

Hon. Tim Sandoval / City of Pomona

Hon. Barbara Messina / SGVCOG

Mark Christoffels / Chief Executive Officer

ACE Joins Call on Capitol Hill for Federal Investment During Infrastructure Week

Members of the Board of Directors of ACE have traveled to Washington, DC, to urge federal funding for nationally significant trade gateways and corridors, including the ACE rail-highway improvement program in Southern California.

El Monte Councilwoman Victoria Martinez, Vice Chair of the ACE Board, and Montebello Councilman Jack Hadjinian, Immediate Past ACE Chair, will meet with members of Congress and U.S. Department of Transportation administrators during Infrastructure Week, a nationwide effort from May 15-19 to raise awareness of the need for infrastructure investment.



Hon. Victoria Martinez, right, with Congressman Alan Lowenthal.

"The ACE program will mitigate the negative impacts on our San Gabriel Valley cities from the 70 freight trains that move through our region daily – projected to nearly double by 2025," said Vice Chair Martinez. "Robust funding should be provided for freight infrastructure improvements through existing and new federal programs, including the Administration's proposed \$1 trillion infrastructure package."

"We are thrilled that ACE is joining Infrastructure Week. The dire state of America's infrastructure is one of the most pressing issues facing us as a nation, and the benefits of a stronger, better infrastructure system will be far-reaching and long-lasting," said Zach Schafer, director of Infrastructure Week. (For details, see <http://infrastructureweek.org/>).

In addition to public safety and quality-of-life benefits, investment in freight infrastructure provides an economic boost in Southern California, where goods movement and related industries represent one-third of all jobs and economic activity. "As a region, we are reliant on an efficient and safe goods movement network," Hadjinian said. "The ACE project will play a critical role in the

livability and prosperity of our communities and region for generations to come."

The Alameda Corridor-East transcontinental rail route, recognized by Congress as a trade corridor of national significance, accommodates about one-fifth of the nation's container traffic, carried on trains to and from the San Pedro Bay ports. The ports are the largest in the western hemisphere, handling more than 40 percent of our nation's containerized imports and nearly 30 percent of exports.

In a newly released report titled "Freight Can't Wait," the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors in Washington, DC identifies two planned ACE projects, located in the Cities of Pico Rivera and Montebello, as among America's most critical freight infrastructure investments. Applications seeking \$50 million in federal FASTLANE freight grant funding for both ACE projects have been submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The ACE Durfee Avenue Grade Separation in the City of Pico Rivera would reduce an estimated 15.3 vehicle-hours of delay each day at the crossing, heavily used by neighborhood children walking and biking to area schools. Nine collisions have been recorded at the crossing since 1981, resulting in four fatalities. The \$91.1 million project would eliminate delays for emergency responders and crossing collisions, emissions would be reduced and locomotive horn noise eliminated.

The ACE Montebello Corridor Grade Separation project calls for constructing a roadway underpass at the railroad crossing on Montebello Boulevard and installing enhanced safety gates on Maple, Greenwood and Vail Avenues. A pedestrian overcrossing is planned for the Maple Avenue crossing to accommodate significant numbers of pedestrians and cyclists. By 2025, rail traffic through the City of Montebello is expected to nearly double, from 49 to 91 trains per day. The cost of the project is \$160 million.



Hon. Jack Hadjinian, left, with Congresswoman Judy Chu and Hon. Victoria Martinez.

Follow us  @ACESgv

Nogales Street Roadway Underpass Tapped as the Top Safety Project at Transportation Awards Event



From left: Norman Tondares, Griffith Company Project Manager; Charles Tsang, ACE Construction Authority Sr. Project Manager; Kevin Lai, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff Resident Engineer; Hilton Yee, AECOM.



Top, a photo of the traffic congestion at the Nogales Street at-grade railroad crossing prior to construction of the underpass. Above, vehicles utilize the completed underpass and move safely beneath the tracks without having to wait for passing trains.

The California Transportation Foundation (CTF) recognized the Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) Nogales Street rail-highway grade separation project as the 2016 Safety Project of the Year at an awards luncheon in May. The award was announced at the annual CTF Transportation Awards luncheon in Sacramento to recognize the foremost California public and private sector transportation projects from all regions of the state.

Before being closed in 2014 for construction of a roadway underpass and railroad bridge, the Nogales Street crossing ranked as the third most hazardous in the nation and the most hazardous crossing in California, with 10 crossing collisions recorded over 10 years, according to Federal Railroad Administration records. The roadway underpass opened to traffic in June 2016.

"The Nogales Street project eliminates the potential for train-vehicle collisions, delays for emergency responders, locomotive horn noise and reduces vehicle emissions," said ACE Board Chair and San Gabriel Mayor Juli Costanzo. "ACE appreciates the California Transportation Foundation's recognition of the successful partnership which resulted in the funding and construction of this high priority safety project."

The nomination was submitted by ACE. Project partners include the construction contractor on the project, the Griffith Company of Brea, Calif., City of Industry, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, AECOM and WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff engineering and construction management firms, and Union Pacific Railroad.

The Alameda Corridor-East transcontinental rail route, recognized by Congress as a trade corridor of national significance, accommodates about one-fifth of the nation's container traffic, carried on trains to and from the San Pedro Bay ports. The ports are the largest in the western hemisphere, handling more than 40 percent of our nation's containerized imports and nearly 30 percent of exports.

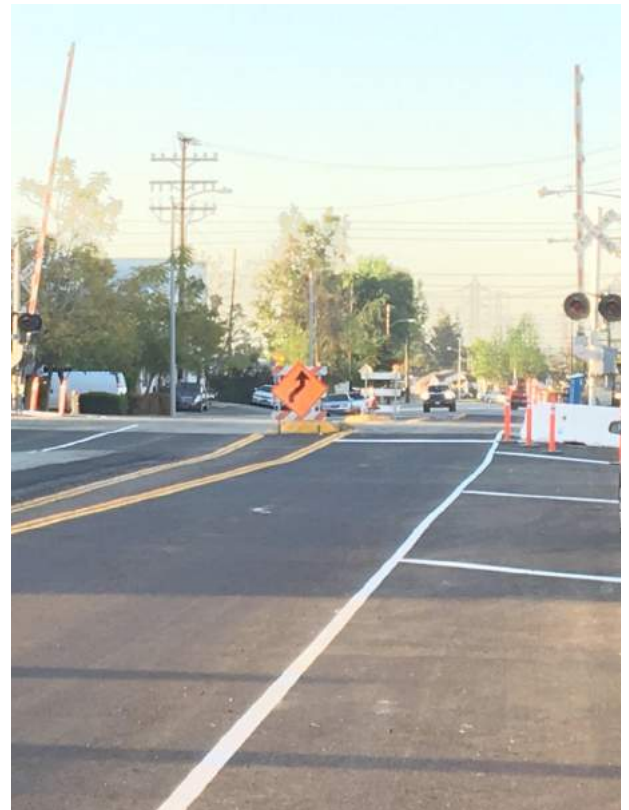
Trains to Run in the Newly Constructed San Gabriel Trench in Summer



A Union Pacific locomotive delivers gravel ballast to the construction site, marking the first train to run in the trench.

Construction crews are nearing completion of the 1.2-mile, 65-foot-wide and 30-foot-deep San Gabriel railroad trench. With work completed on the trench walls and floor, and bridges at all four railroad crossings, the focus shifts to new mainline construction. However, due to the record rainfall and severe weather conditions in California through the months of January and February, track outages and service interruptions required Union Pacific to divert their crews and materials for repairs elsewhere in the state and across the Pacific Northwest, ultimately impacting the schedule for the mainline track work. The new mainline tracks are scheduled to be installed by Union Pacific crews by mid-Summer. Once complete, freight traffic will shift from the temporary railroad shoofly onto the new tracks in the trench. The majority of the project is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year.

At right, the Walnut Grove Avenue railroad crossing was closed to vehicular traffic for a month from the end of February to the end of March for crews to make crossing modifications including road work to accommodate the elevation change as a result of the trench ascending back to the at-grade crossing. Other work included street paving, median installation and relocating and rewiring of the railroad signals.



Follow us [@SGTrench](https://twitter.com/SGTrench)

Road Work Underway on Fullerton Road Project



The Rowland Street and Lawson Street intersection has been widened.

Fullerton Road from Gale Avenue on the north and the eastbound State Route 60 freeway off-ramp on the south is being widened to three lanes in each direction, improving traffic flow and reducing congestion at the bottleneck, traversed by over 23,000 vehicles daily. The widening is being completed in advance of a road closure this summer to construct a six-lane roadway underpass and railroad bridge on Fullerton Road in the City of Industry and unincorporated community of Rowland Heights. Completion of the grade separation and reopening of the roadway is anticipated in Summer 2020.

Crews recently completed the widening of the Rowland Street and Lawson Street intersection that will serve as a key north-south detour option for local traffic upon the closure of the Fullerton Road railroad crossing for underpass and bridge construction this summer. Traffic signals will be installed to regulate the flow of traffic at the intersection in the coming months.

Follow us  @FullertonGS



Excavation for New Underpass on Puente Avenue Begins as Work Continues on Valley Boulevard Bridge



Construction of a roadway underpass and railroad bridge on Puente Avenue at Valley Boulevard in the City of Industry and unincorporated community of Avocado Heights is moving into its next phase. Excavation has begun on Workman Mill Road, south of Valley Boulevard, to prepare the site for construction of the south abutment, retaining walls and roadway underpass.

Crews recently finished work on the southern portion of the roadway bridge that will carry vehicles across Puente Avenue. Despite construction taking place on busy Valley Boulevard, work was staged to ensure traffic flow and access to local businesses was maintained at all times.

Follow us [@PuenteGS](#)



Valley Boulevard, continue on page 7

Valley Boulevard, continued from page 6



Work now moves on to the northern portion of the Valley Boulevard roadway bridge as well as the railroad bridge that will span the underpass. As a result, traffic lanes on Valley Boulevard have been shifted onto the newly

constructed portion of the bridge structure on the south. In addition, 3rd Avenue has been opened to traffic to provide access to eastbound Valley Boulevard. Project completion is scheduled for Fall 2018.



Construction Continues on Lemon Avenue Ramps for Fairway Drive Project



Crews build the forms and retaining wall for the Lemon Avenue westbound on-ramp.

In anticipation of the crossing closure to construct a roadway underpass and railroad bridge on Fairway Drive later this year, crews are working to build a new interchange on State Route 60 at Lemon Avenue in Diamond Bar and City of Industry

that will be used as a detour for motorists. The three-legged interchange will include a westbound on-ramp and eastbound off- and on-ramps. Freeway ramp work is scheduled to be completed in the fall.



Mass excavation and grading work continues for the Lemon Avenue eastbound off-ramp.

Follow us

[@LemonAveRamps](https://twitter.com/LemonAveRamps)

[@FairwayGS](https://twitter.com/FairwayGS)

Durfee Avenue Project in Pico Rivera in Final Design



A computer-generated view of the Durfee Avenue grade separation project in the City of Pico Rivera.

Final design work and property acquisition is taking place for the Durfee Avenue Grade separation project which will result in the lowering of Durfee Avenue between Beverly Road and Whittier Boulevard in the City of Pico Rivera and a new railroad bridge for freight and Metrolink passenger trains. Staff is addressing design revisions requested by project stakeholders and finalizing right-of-way acquisitions and utility coordination issues. Bids for construction of the underpass are scheduled to be solicited this fall with groundbreaking slated for early 2018.

Follow us  **@DurfeeGS**

Design Underway for Montebello Corridor Project



Aerial rendering of the completed Montebello Boulevard grade separation.

The Montebello Corridor Grade Separation Project calls for constructing a roadway underpass with sidewalk and bike lanes and railroad bridge at the railroad crossing on Montebello Boulevard and installing safety improvements, including quad crossing gates for enhanced safety, at the crossings on Maple, Greenwood and Vail Avenues. A pedestrian overcrossing is planned for the Maple Avenue crossing due to significant numbers of pedestrians and cyclists. The project is moving forward with the environmental review process as ACE staff continues to coordinate with the city and other stakeholders during the preliminary design phase. The estimated project cost is \$160 million and is expected to begin construction in early 2020.

Follow us  @MontebelloGS

Turnbull Canyon Road Project Moves to Design Phase

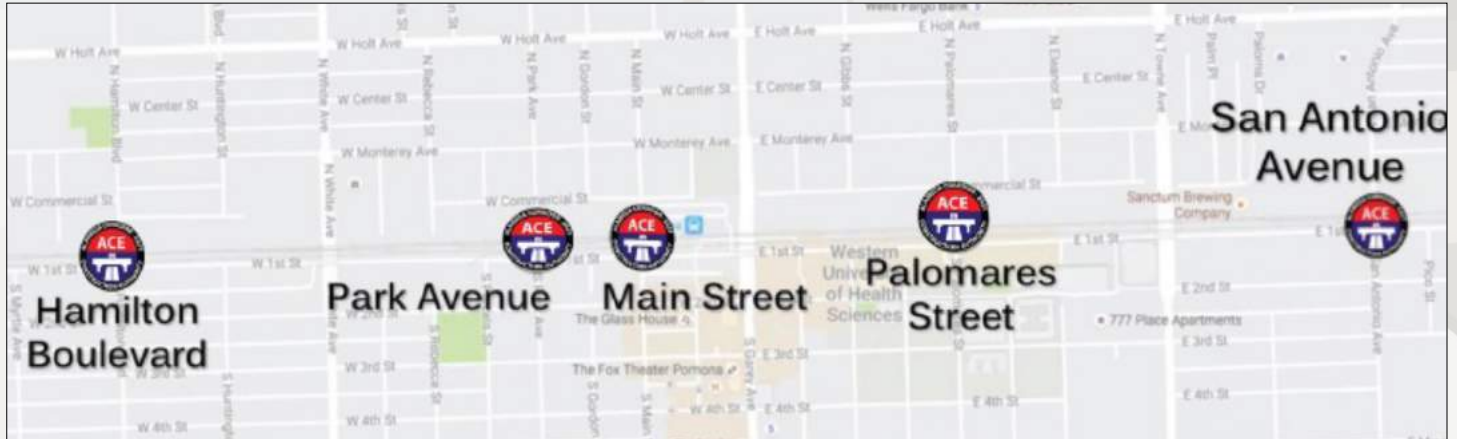


Aerial rendering of the completed Turnbull Canyon Road grade separation.

Plans for a grade separation project on Turnbull Canyon Road in the City of Industry and unincorporated community of Hacienda Heights are moving on to the preliminary design phase. In January, the ACE Board of Directors voted to award a contract to HNTB Corporation for design and engineering services. The City of Industry Council had voted last year to approve construction of a two-lane overpass structure. The overpass concept was recommended due to potential property impacts, utility conflicts, groundwater concerns, coordination with Union Pacific Railroad and estimated project costs for an underpass. Preliminary design and engineering is anticipated to be completed by early 2018. Total estimated cost of the project is \$65.1 million.

Follow us  @TurnbullCynGS

Pomona At-Grade Crossing Safety Improvements Project Update



The proposed crossing safety improvements project in Pomona includes features such as pedestrian channelization, roadway modifications, updated signage and striping and traffic signal improvements at five at-grade railroad crossings near the downtown area at Hamilton Boulevard, Park Avenue,

Main Street, Palomares Street and San Antonio Avenue. The project will address safety issues at the crossings, where five fatalities of pedestrians and a cyclist have been recorded at four of the crossings over the last 10 years, with one motorist injured when a vehicle was stuck on the tracks at the fifth

crossing. Project design plans have reached the 35 percent preliminary engineering stage as ACE staff continues to coordinate with stakeholders, utilities and other agencies. The current schedule calls for construction to start in Summer 2019.



Above, an example of at-grade crossing improvements.

Follow us

 @PomonaCrossings

ACE Visits Capitol Hill



Front row, from left, SGCVOG Executive Director Phil Hawkey, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff, SGVCOG 1st Vice President Margaret Clark. Back row, from left, ACE CEO Mark Christoffels, former SGCVOG President Gene Murabito, ACE Administrative Services Manager Deanna Stanley, ACE Director of Government and Community Relations Paul Hubler and San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Director of Public Policy Brad Jensen.

ACE and SGVCOG Board Members and staff met with San Gabriel Valley's congressional delegation to discuss the ACE Project and SGVCOG transportation priorities during an annual trip to Washington, D.C., in March.



From left, ACE Washington representative Brendan McCann, ACE CEO Mark Christoffels, former SGCVOG President Gene Murabito, U.S. Rep. Linda Sanchez, SGVCOG 1st Vice President Margaret Clark, SGCVOG Executive Director Phil Hawkey, San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Director of Public Policy Brad Jensen and ACE Administrative Services Manager Deanna Stanley.

Capitol Hill, continue on page 14



Capitol Hill, continued from page 13



From left, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, ACE Administrative Services Manager Deanna Stanley, SGVCOG 1st Vice President Margaret Clark, Diamond Bar Council Member Carol Herrera, U.S. Rep. Ed Royce, former SGVCOG President Gene Murabito, Diamond Bar Mayor Jimmy Lin, SGVCOG Executive Director Phil Hawkey, San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Director of Public Policy Brad Jensen and ACE CEO Mark Christoffels.

The ACE Report is *multilingual*!

Read the Spanish and Chinese versions of our newsletter on the ACE website:

Somos multilingüe! Lea la versión en Español de nuestro boletín en la página de internet de ACE:

我們為您提供多語種服務！欲閱讀中文版本的通訊，請瀏覽ACE網站：

WWW.THEACEPROJECT.ORG