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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KICK-OFF CEREMONY CELEBRATES GRIDLOCK RELIEF ON THE POMONA FREEWAY (SR-60)

City of Industry -- The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and guests celebrated gridlock relief today as they kicked-off the construction of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV or carpool lanes), for the Pomona Freeway (State Route 60) at a ceremony at the Puente Hills Mall. When completed, the new lanes will save carpoolers about one minute per mile, help to relieve congestion, improve mobility, decrease travel times and enhance safety. They will also improve the movement of goods and services throughout the corridor.

Will Kempton, Caltrans Director, was joined by Gloria Molina, Los Angeles County Supervisor and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chairperson; Michael Antonovich, Los Angeles County Supervisor; Douglas R. Failing, Caltrans District 7 Director; Roger Snoble, Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Transportation Authority; John Fasana, Councilman, City of Duarte and Board Member, Metropolitan Transportation Authority; and others.

"These highway improvement projects are providing congestion relief for California's motorists," said Failing. "We all want a California where people spend less time sitting on the freeways, less time commuting and more time with their families."

The improvement project will add one HOV lane (11.5 miles in each direction) to ease congestion on State Route 60 between the San Gabriel River Freeway (I-605) in the City of Industry and the Orange Freeway (SR-57). This freeway improvement will also extend the existing HOV lanes on the freeway and assist carpool commuters in their daily travels.

"Moving people and goods through this congested corridor is paramount as we strive to modernize our infrastructure and improve mobility for the region," said Metro CEO Roger Snoble. "Once completed, this project will go a long way in achieving that goal, encourage people to share a ride and improve the air we breathe. Metro is proud to be a major financial partner in this vital highway improvement project."

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State Route 60 is a major urban freeway which has a dual function. First, it serves as a corridor that links Los Angeles and communities located in the San Gabriel Valley, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Second, it serves as a truck route to provide freeway access for oversized trucks.

Improving SR-60 with carpool lanes is another step toward providing a seamless transportation network and improving the quality of life for California's commuters. With the completion of this HOV project, Caltrans District 7 covering Los Angeles and Ventura counties, will have over 500 carpool lane miles – the most in the entire state. California has about 40% of the nation's total HOV lane miles.

Approximately 211,000 commuters use this portion of SR-60 every day. When complete, the Pomona Freeway will have continuous HOV lanes between the San Gabriel River Freeway and Riverside County. Soundwalls will be constructed at various locations to improve the quality of life for residents who live alongside the freeway. This \$125-million project is expected to complete in the summer of 2011.

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