

## New Transit Projects moving forward in San Bernardino County

Changing the way people travel throughout the Inland Empire is the goal of two projects that started construction in February in San Bernardino County.

The first project is the Downtown San Bernardino Passenger Rail Project (DTSBPRP), which will extend the Metrolink line from the historic Santa Fe Depot one mile east, where it will join with the second project, the future San Bernardino Transit Center, to be constructed at Rialto Avenue and "E" Street in the City of San Bernardino.

These two projects represent a partnership between the Federal Transit Administration, San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), Omnitrans, Metrolink, and the City of San Bernardino. Speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony included Leslie Rogers, Regional Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration, California Transportation Commissioner Joe Tavaglione, SANBAG President Bill Jahn, County Supervisor James Ramos, Omnitrans Chairman Alan Wapner, and Patrick Morris, who was both Metrolink Chairman and City of San Bernardino Mayor prior to leaving office in March.

The Transit Center will be a multi-modal transportation hub where local Omnitrans bus routes, the new sbX Bus Rapid Transit service, Victor Valley Transit Authority (buses from the High Desert), Mountain Area Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) bus service, and Metrolink trains will all meet when the projects are completed. The public can transfer from one mode of transportation to another at this hub and go in various directions. Commuter rail service will eventually be extended nine miles further east via the future Redlands Passenger Rail Project. That project is currently in the environmental phase.

Combined the two projects total \$128 million, with \$37 million coming from federal sources, \$26.9 million from state sources, \$27 million from Measure I, San Bernardino County's ½ cent sales tax measure for transportation, and \$37.7 million from other local sources.

The Transit Center is expected to be completed in Early 2015, while the Metrolink extension and Santa Fe Depot modifications should be completed by Summer 2016.



Elected officials and community leaders used a large punch card to symbolize the various transportation options that will be available at the new Transit Center.