

## NEWS RELEASE

### **CITY OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF WESTCHESTER STREET PROJECT**



**LOS ANGELES (January 7, 2010)**—Officials of the City of Los Angeles led by Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, 11<sup>th</sup> District, hosted today a news conference and ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Sepulveda Boulevard Improvement Project in Westchester. City Engineer Gary Lee Moore, Board of Public Works member Paula Daniels, Department of Transportation (LADOT) Principal Transportation Engineer Haripal Vir, and community members attended the 11:00 a.m. event at the northwest corner of Sepulveda Boulevard and 89<sup>th</sup> Street.

“I am thrilled to complete this multi-faceted project that improves the safety and the aesthetics for this portion of Sepulveda Boulevard. It has never looked so good,” said Councilmember Rosendahl. “This project not only benefits business in the area but the entire Westchester community with better traffic flow, more parking, as well as a cleaner

and greener downtown Westchester.”

The \$8.9-million project stretched along Sepulveda Boulevard between Lincoln Boulevard and Howard Hughes Parkway. Since summer 2007, the Department of Public Works worked on sidewalks; installed and landscaped medians; upgraded to streetlights; planted shrubs and 193 new trees; built a storm drain and catch basins, and widened the boulevard to allow for three full time lanes on each direction, plus street parking at the business district.

City Engineer Moore said, “We are pleased to present a more drivable and business-friendlier Sepulveda Boulevard to the Westchester community.” He adds, “This project is a success that we share with the community and the other public agencies that have supported and contributed to this improved major airport access road.”

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“LADOT is excited that the Sepulveda Boulevard Improvement Project is completed. Thank you to the local community for its patience and support over the last two years,” said Rita L. Robinson, LADOT General Manager.

The Westchester community, through the Westchester Town Center Business Improvement District (BID) and the Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association, was well involved through the planning and construction of this street project. Donald Duckworth, Westchester BID Executive Director said, “We are pleased to have been able to work with Councilmember Rosendahl, his fine staff,



and the other top quality City staff involved in this project to produce tangible Sepulveda Boulevard improvements for this community. Our district is one of few that can claim such progress!”

Duckworth confirmed the community’s commitment to the project even after completion. He adds, “Westchester Town Center's commercial property owners look forward to maintaining these improvements as a credit to the community and embarking on new partnerships with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, LAX, and the Planning Department to create new high paying jobs and improvements in Westchester.”

Prior to the Sepulveda Boulevard Improvement Project, the major Westchester roadway had six traffic lanes that were reduced to four in the business district during peak hours to allow for street parking, thereby causing congestion. Flooding during the rainy season was a common occurrence at the intersection of 89<sup>th</sup> Street and Sepulveda Boulevard due to the lack of a storm drain and catch basins. The need for trees was also identified to help mitigate air quality along the busy transit corridor.

Construction began in summer 2007 and was completed in December 2009. Work transpired mostly during weekdays, except during the November-December holiday season when a holiday moratorium was implemented.

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For more information about the Sepulveda Boulevard Improvement Project, as well as other projects, programs and services provided by the Department of Public Works, call the Public Affairs Office at (213) 978-0333, e-mail: [bpw.pao@lacity.org](mailto:bpw.pao@lacity.org) or visit [www.lacity.org/DPW/dpwhome.htm](http://www.lacity.org/DPW/dpwhome.htm).

The five-commissioner Board of Public Works manages the Department of Public Works, the City's second largest municipal division with a \$559 million operating budget. The Department awards more than \$500 million in construction and personal service contracts annually, and oversees the construction, renovation, and operation of public projects such as municipal buildings, streets, bridges, street lights, water treatment plants, sewers and sidewalks, and provides essential public services like recycling and solid waste management.

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