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\$107 Million Grant Given To Upgrade Metrolink Through Santa Clarita

Posted by: KHTS Newsroom in Santa Clarita Latest News, Travel April 22, 2020 - 3:30 pm 9 Comments 1,763 Views

California Secretary of Transportation David Kim announced Wednesday a \$107 million grant has been given to upgrade the Metrolink railroad tracks on the Antelope Valley Line through Santa Clarita, officials said.

The grant is expected to be used to add additional train tracks in various locations to allow trains to pass in areas they were not able to in the past, according to officials.

This is another step in the multi-year efforts by Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger and regional stakeholders to support critical improvements to the region, officials said.

"This award is the result of an incredible partnership between our local North Los Angeles County cities, Metro, Metrolink and key regional stakeholders," said Barger, who also sits on the Los Angeles Metro and Metrolink boards of directors. "We are so grateful the state recognized the value and importance of our proposal and we look forward to our ongoing collaboration to ultimately deliver major improvements that will benefit millions of people who use this transportation corridor annually. Considering the struggles our communities have endured in recent weeks, this is cause for celebration."

The major capital projects that are intended to be funded through this grant include:

- Balboa Double Track Extension, just south of I-5/SR-14 Interchange, which would allow for additional capacity and passing.
- Lancaster terminal improvements, including new layover and light maintenance facilities.
- Canyon siding extension, which allows for additional passing in the Santa Clarita Valley area.
- Brighton to McGinley double track, a key segment of the critical Brighton-to-Roxford Double Track project, which will add capacity and additional passing between Sylmar and Burbank, according to officials.

This funding request, coupled with local matching funds, is expected to take thousands of cars off the 5 and 14 Freeways daily, according to Barger's office.

The Transit and Intercity Rail Capital grant is also set to fund a Zero-Emissions Multiple Unit Pilot project, which will test new zero-emission trains on the Antelope Valley Line to assess flexibility and cost savings using clean rail technology, according to officials.

This is part of a larger Metro and Metrolink commitment to implement zero-emissions trains throughout L.A. County and Southern California.

"This would not have been possible without the leadership of our regional partners, including more than 40 elected officials and local stakeholders who submitted letters of support," Barger said. "Thank you to Secretary Kim, our cities, Metro and Metrolink leadership and staff and North County Transportation Coalition Executive Director Arthur Sohikian for their efforts."

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