



**ERIC
GARCETTI**

President, Los Angeles City Council
COUNCIL DISTRICT 13



200 N. Spring St. Room 470 • Los Angeles • CA 90012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 4, 2008

BECERRA, GARCETTI DEDICATE IMPROVEMENTS TO ENHANCE SAFETY, KEEP TRAFFIC MOVING AT SANTA MONICA AND WESTERN INTERSECTION

*Community members join in ribbon cutting at
one of the city's most heavily traveled intersections*

U.S. Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31) and Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti joined with community members from the Santa Monica-Western neighborhood to dedicate street improvements that will make it safer for pedestrians and less congested for drivers at the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Western Avenue. The approximately \$300,000 total cost of the improvements was covered by a grant from the Federal Highway Administration secured by Rep. Becerra, working in close partnership with Council President Garcetti.

With several major bus lines, entrances and exits to the 101 freeway, a Metro Red Line stop, and numerous businesses in the vicinity, the Santa Monica-Western intersection is one of the city's most heavily traveled by both cars and pedestrians. Four blocks west of the intersection, an 8 year-old neighborhood resident was tragically killed in a car accident while crossing Santa Monica Boulevard on her way to school in 2005.

"The multitude of pedestrians and motorists who pass through this intersection every day on their way to home, school, or work should feel safe and protected by up-to-date traffic controls," Rep. Becerra said. "These improvements, made possible by federal dollars, greatly enhance the safety and efficiency of this busy intersection."

"Thousands of people travel through this busy intersection everyday and these improvements will make it safer for them whether they're driving in a car or walking from home, school, or the bus of Metro stop," said Council President Garcetti. "With new left-turn signals and longer left-turn lanes, we're also able to keep traffic moving much more smoothly."

Improvements include new signalized left-turn arrows, extended left-turn pocket lanes, and decorative crosswalks designed to call drivers' attention to pedestrians. The crosswalk pattern was selected with input from the Santa Monica Western Residents Group.

###