



Metro

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House Finally Clears Surface Transportation Agreement; Senate Action Expected Tonight

This morning, the House of Representatives voted to approve the final conference report on the surface transportation reauthorization bill. The \$286.5 billion conference agreement, now dubbed "SAFETEA-LU" (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users"), passed by an overwhelming margin of 412-8. Tonight, the Senate is expected to take up and approve the conference report before adjourning for the August summer recess.

Before passing the reauthorization package, the House also approved a short-term extension bill that gives the President two weeks -- until August 14 -- to sign SAFETEA-LU into law. Without the extension legislation, the U.S. Department of Transportation would have been required to furlough employees and shut down the entire transportation program.

Today's action marks the conclusion of a tumultuous three-year journey. Since 2002, transportation leaders in Congress collaborated closely with stakeholders, including Metro, to develop a long-term framework for federal highway and transit programs. The great difficulty involved in passing this legislation clearly highlights the growing conflict between the need for greater investment in infrastructure against the limitations of the federal budget and an increasingly austere fiscal climate in Washington.

Attached to this email you will find an initial overview of SAFETEA-LU, along with a list of project earmarks in Los Angeles County. Please note that this is a preliminary review. Given the massive size of the bill, Metro staff will continue to evaluate and analyze the many provisions of local importance and will provide a

more comprehensive summary in the near future.

405 Freeway Funding

As a follow up to [today's news story](#), the Daily News is preparing a story to run over the weekend regarding the \$130 million in funding contained in the TEA-21 Reauthorization Bill. Staff told the reporter that the funding for the 405 Freeway HOV project was terrific news and that we will coordinate closely with CTC and Caltrans to see how we can best utilize the \$130 million earmark. The story will focus on what will be done with the \$130 million earmark and the funding gap that still exists in completing the project.

Mobility 21 Coalition Meeting in San Pedro Draws Major Crowd

Approximately four hundred transportation stakeholders gathered in San Pedro this morning for a Mobility 21 Coalition meeting. The meeting featured remarks by a number of prominent transportation officials and experts, including the Chair of the California State Assembly's Transportation Committee, Jenny Oropeza. The meeting concluded with a panel discussion on goods movement issues.

Metro Bus Roadeo

Media Relations invited the news media to the preliminaries of this year's "Bus Roadeo" held in the parking lot of the Santa Anita Race Track. Numerous media outlets covered the event today, with some reporters actually driving the bus through the course. Positive stories are expected to run later today and tomorrow. Those attending the event include Ch. 7, 34, 22, 52, 54, Telemundo, the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, CORE Media Group Newspapers, Crown City News TV Group, KBS-TV (Korean), the Arcadia Weekly and the Chinese Daily News.

Metro Construction Story

Engineering News Record Magazine interviewed staff today for an upcoming story on major construction activities at transit properties. Staff highlighted construction activities taking place on both the Metro Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley and the Eastside Extension of the Metro Gold Line to East LA. Photos of construction activities were also sent to the reporter for inclusion in the story.

KPPC's Live Broadcast from the Metro Headquarters Building

KPCC's Live Radio Program, AirTalk with Larry Mantle, was recorded today in Metro's Board Room, and featured a panel of transportation experts, including Metro's Chief Planning Officer Jim De La Loza, Deputy Mayor of Transportation Jaime De La Vega, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Metrolink

CEO David Solow, and Friends for Expo co-founder Darrell Clark. The hour-long program, titled, "L.A.'s Transportation Future: Will We Ever Get There?" discussed bus and rail public transportation services throughout Los Angeles and Southern California. An audio archive of the program will be made available on KPCC's web site at <http://www.scpr.org/programs/airtalk/index.shtml>

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