



Metro

Daily Brief

Wednesday, August 10, 2005

20050810-0

CEO Roger Snoble

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SAFETEA-LU Update

After 12 extensions, three years and many debates, President George W. Bush, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta, House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, Congressman James L. Oberstar and others met in Montgomery, Illinois today to sign SAFETEA-LU, the \$286.5 billion six year surface transportation reauthorization bill.

SAFETEA-LU funds highway and public transportation programs, as well as highway safety programs, through fiscal year 2009. It is funded mainly through an 18.3-cent-per-gallon excise tax on gasoline. The bill includes over 6, 341 specific projects requested by Members of Congress.

Attached for your information is an updated list of highway and transit earmarks in Los Angeles County.

Senior House Republican to Visit Metro on Thursday

Congressman Tom Petri (R-WI), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit and a key player on the recently-passed SAFETEA-LU legislation, will be making a brief visit to Metro headquarters on the afternoon of Thursday, August 11. Known as a staunch advocate of greater investments in transportation infrastructure, Congressman Petri will be briefed on the status of Metro's current projects. Board members are welcome to participate in the meeting. The exact time, however, is subject to change, so please let my office know if you are interested in attending.

Metro Takes Lead on 710 Tunnel Study

This afternoon, I was interviewed by Channel 7 regarding the 710 tunnel feasibility study to cover gap closure in South Pasadena. This is a result of an article in the Los Angeles Times this morning.

Go Metro To Beat High Gas Prices

A Los Angeles Times editorial writer interviewed Public Relations staff about increased ridership in the wake of record gas prices. Staff noted that there are more Metro public transit options, it's the best bargain in town, and staff also plugged other rideshare alternatives such as vanpools and carpools and the Commutesmart.info web site that gives helpful information on how to take advantage of all rideshare options in Southern California. Metro helps sponsor the site.

Metro Promotes Diversity

Spanish media has been covering a story about patrons on Line 333 allegedly being forced off the bus by an operator last month for speaking Spanish. Westside Central Sector General Manager David Armijo met with reporters from Channel 34, Channel 52, 62 and La Opinion. He said Metro takes the charge seriously and is conducting a thorough investigation. While not jumping to conclusions, Armijo noted that Metro will not tolerate even a hint of racial intolerance. Diversity sensitivity is covered in operator training and management is reminding all operators of its importance. Reporters also were told that the vast majority of Metro employees are minorities. Some 40% of Metro operators are Hispanic.

John Catoe has released a memo today to all operations staff reminding them of our policy on diversity and the need to be sensitive to the cultural differences of our customers and fellow employees. In the memo, he states Metro will not tolerate a hint of any kind of racial intolerance.

Metro Upgrading Security

Associated Press interviewed Metro Intelligence Chief Paul Lennon about Homeland security grants for camera upgrades, bomb and gun sniffing dogs and other Metro security enhancements. The New York Times requested copies of posters Metro has installed on buses and trains encouraging the public to be vigilant and watch for suspicious activity

Update on Contract Bus Services Labor Issue - Day 10

Transportation Concepts, Inc. made full rollout this morning with one bus leaving 15 minutes late. The picketing continues quietly with 4 Teamsters Union Reps

and 3 of the 17 drivers.

The Sheriffs support continues and again no incidents today were reported but yesterday around noon, a female drove into the TCI yard for a job interview, as she was getting in she, apparently, brushed a striker with her car. The person did not have any injuries and was able to walk away. After her business with TCI she was going out and the Sheriff arrested her. She was unaware of the waiting procedures as well as the driver was unaware that this person was not up to speed on how to proceed through a picket line.

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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
1 Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012-2952
Phone: 213-922-6888
Fax: 213-922-7447
