



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

**Tuesday, August 16, 2005**

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**CEO Roger Snoble**

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## **Metro Briefs Congresswoman Jane Harman on Transit Security**

Metro's Director of Intelligence and Emergency Preparedness Paul Lennon and Chief of Transit Police Captain Dan Finkelstein reviewed a number of transit security issues with Congresswoman Jane Harman, D-36<sup>th</sup> District, earlier today. The briefing included a summary of the enhanced security steps Metro has and plans to take since both the September 11, 2001 attack on America and the recent rail and bus bombings in Madrid and London. Congresswoman Harman, who serves as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, expressed her eagerness to undertake efforts in Washington, DC to improve Metro's transit security program.

## **Metro Orange Line Construction Milestone**

Metro Orange Line Construction Milestone 4A, completion of the Rapidway from Van Nuys Boulevard to the eastern end at North Hollywood Station, was substantially finished yesterday, August 15, 2005. The eastern half of the Rapidway is now available to Bus Operations to commence pre-revenue operations and testing. Closed circuit television monitoring of station platform areas from the Bus Operations Control facility has commenced. Bus testing is expected to start on an intermittent basis on Sunday August 21, 2005.

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## **SB 851 (Murray) Metro's Procurement Process In Assembly Appropriations**

## **Committee Tomorrow**

SB 851, a measure sponsored by Metro pertaining to our procurement process, will be considered tomorrow in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Two groups have recently expressed concern over various aspects of the bill. The Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) believes the legislation could be interpreted by future Boards to allow for the expansion of contracted services. These issues, however, are thoroughly addressed in Metro's collective bargaining agreements and in state law. SB 851 does not affect those issues. ATU has suggested clarifying amendments, which may be added to the bill.

Additionally, representatives of the newspaper publishers have expressed concern over a provision that would give Metro the flexibility to advertise bid solicitations in other venues, thereby relieving Metro of the obligation to advertise bid solicitations in newspapers. Although this language would allow Metro to realize some cost savings, the ability to actually accomplish this objective appears limited this year. We will keep you informed of any new developments on SB 851 as it moves through the Assembly.

## **Rising Gas Prices Drives Commuters to Metro**

The Daily News is expected to run a story Wednesday about a 14% jump in Metro Rail ridership and a 9% jump in Metro Bus ridership compared to a year ago. Staff stated that we believe it's due to both rising gas prices and improved Metro services such as more Metro Rapid Lines and the 450X express service from the South Bay. For the price of a gallon of gas, you can buy a \$3 Metro Day Pass. Reporter will note that the Metro Blue Line reached record ridership in July 2005 with 78,000 average weekday boardings, and the Metro Gold Line's average weekday boardings in July 2005 reached 18,245, the highest in two years.

The Long Beach Business Journal also asked staff for ridership information today. I will be interviewed tomorrow, August 17, about rising Metro ridership on NBC Nightly News. KCET's "Life and Times" is working on a ridership story. They will ride along Wednesday morning with one of their producers who regularly use Metro buses to ride from Westwood to Virgil and Sunset.

## **Federal Funding Supports Los Angeles County Projects**

An Associated Press reporter asked Countywide Planning staff how the \$4.5 billion in federal funding from SAFETEA-LU, which was recently signed by the President, would be used for Los Angeles County transportation projects and programs. Countywide Planning staff told the reporter that the federal formula funds and earmarks would be used for a number of highway and transit projects, including the I-405 northbound carpool lane, the Alameda Corridor East project, the I-710/Gerald Desmond Bridge, the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, and

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the Metro Exposition Line. Staff reported that the agency would work with Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration on highway projects and the Federal Transit Administration on public transportation projects to secure and access the new federal funding for Los Angeles County. A story is expected to run in the next couple of days.

### **Update on Metro Liner**

A reporter from the Spanish language newspaper Cinco Días interviewed Media Relations. They will run a story on the Metro Gold Line and the new Metro Liner Bus. Staff also sent a picture. The story will run tomorrow.

### **Update on the I-710 Tunnel Study**

A reporter from the news website [Toll Road News.com](http://Toll Road News.com) interviewed Metro staff to discuss the Feasibility Technical Assessment study for the proposed tunnel to complete the 710 Freeway. The story on the 4 1/2 mile tunnel project, the biggest tunnel in the USA when completed, will be noted later this week on this news web site.

### **Metro Gold Line East Side Extension Presentation to the East Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce**

On Thursday, August 18, Community Relations Capital Projects will be providing a brief overview of Eastside Construction at an East Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Mixer to be held at Chim Maya, 5283 E. Beverly Blvd. in East Los Angeles - across the street from Supervisor Gloria Molina's field office.

### **Update on Contract Bus Services Labor Issue - Day 16**

Transportation Concepts, Inc made there roll-out on time except for one one-way tripper on Line 167 which was cancelled due to lack of vehicles. There were 20 picketers this morning. Approximately five of the picketers were drivers and the remainder were Teamsters representatives and drivers from other locations. There were no incidents between the picketers or drivers. The Sheriffs continued to provide support.

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