



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble

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## Mayor Villaraigosa Invites Angelinos To "Ride With The Mayor"

Mayor Villaraigosa has scheduled a news conference at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning to encourage people to use public transportation in their daily commute and avoid the high cost of gasoline. Media Relations assisted the Mayor's press staff in providing information on costs individuals can save daily, monthly and yearly if they switch from driving solo in their vehicles to either a car or van pool or use public transit. The Mayor plans to ride the Metro Gold Line departing from the Southwest Museum station at 8:41am to the press event at East Portal of Union Station before attending the regular scheduled Board meeting.

## Agency Fuel Costs

Channel 2/9 interviewed Metro executive staff today on the impact rising fuel costs are having on the agency's budget. Staff reported that current fuel costs are above agency projections, and if fuel costs continue to be purchased at today's rates, Metro will be \$6.4 million over budget by the end of the fiscal year. Staff indicated that the agency would examine its controllable costs to help mitigate these price increases, but not anything that would affect its transportation services. Staff reported that there are no current plans for a fare increase to Metro transit customers. The story is expected to run this evening at the 8 o'clock news hour.

## Bet The High Price Of Gas

A Metro Networks reporter (KABC) today interviewed Public Relations staff about

savings commuters can realize by taking Metro instead of driving solo. With gas at about \$2.80 a gallon, Metro riders who purchase monthly passes can save an estimated \$5,451 a year compared to driving solo in their cars or trucks.

### **Metro Security Upgrade**

A Metro Networks reporter (KABC) today interviewed Public Relations staff about plans for enhancing Metro security with cameras and training, which will be discussed at Thursday's Board meeting.

### **KTLA Morning News Producers Take VIP Metro Tour**

Richard Goldner, executive producer of the KTLA morning news, and another KTLA producer were given a special tour of the Metro Red Line and bus dispatch center this morning by Media Relation staff. KTLA is interested in doing follow up stories on the Metro Orange Line's high tech features and promoting fun places to go via Metro.

### **Metro Gold Line Eastside Construction and Former Crematorium**

The Downtown News requested information today on the human remains found at the LA County Crematorium last July during construction of a retaining wall for the East Portal for the Eastside Extension of the Metro Gold Line. Rick Thorpe, Chief Executive Office Capital Projects, explained to the reporter that this area was used to bury "John Does" dating back to the earliest 1800's. In the 1920's, the County built a crematorium and since then the remains of people without ID or family to reclaim loved ones are cremated in this facility.

Metro has informed the community and the Review Advisory Group about the process and also the options to proceed without affecting the light rail project. Metro will do a ground radar penetration of the area to find out if more remains exist nearby. After that, the human remains will receive proper burial and ceremony. The site will have a headstone for those who want to pay tribute to their love ones. A story might run next Monday.

### **Sector Service Changes**

Our Weekly newspaper in the South Bay inquired today regarding proposed Metro Bus service changes planned for the South Bay region. Media Relations Staff reported that public hearings on the proposed service modification took place in early August and that the individual transit service sectors will act on the proposed service changes in early September. If approved, the proposed service modifications will take place in December. Media relations issued a news release today noting the upcoming service sector governance council meetings scheduled for early September. Also noted were four of the five service sectors that will take action on proposed service modifications planned

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for implementation in December.

## **Update on Contract Bus Services Labor Issue - Day 24**

Transportation Concepts made 100% on-time rollout this morning. There were eight drivers and two teamsters representatives walking the picket lines. There were no incidents with the picketers or TCI operators this morning.

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