



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

**Wednesday, August 31, 2005**

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**CEO Roger Snoble**

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## **SB 66 Considered in State Senate Today**

SB 66, the Bay Bridge cleanup legislation was considered in the State Senate today. The measure fell one vote short of passage but will be reconsidered in the near future. Some concern has arisen amongst Senate Republicans regarding Brown Act requirements applicable to an oversight committee established for the program. The bill also contains language which would allow Metro to more adequately address reimbursements due to the Metro from the State. It does not appear that this language is the source of concern. Metro's advocacy team is working with leadership in both the Senate and Assembly to address the measure when it is reconsidered. We are also urging the Administration to uphold the overall Bay Bridge agreement by working to secure passage SB 66.

## **SB 1024 (Safe Facilities, Improved Mobility and Clean Air Bond) Act Amended**

Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata has amended SB 1024 to remove \$1.3 billion in funding for the San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge and replaced it with an allocation of \$1.5 billion to the State Transportation Improvement Program. This measure is currently pending in the Senate and may soon be moved to the Assembly. Recently the Governor, Speaker and Pro Tem announced that this measure should be considered when the Legislature addresses transportation issues next year.

## **SB 851 To Be Considered in the State Assembly**

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SB 851, Metro's sponsored bill relating to our procurement process will soon be considered in the State Assembly. This measure has received near unanimous support.

### **Rising Gas Prices Drive Up Metro Ridership**

KNX news radio and the Whittier Daily News today interviewed Public Relations staff regarding the impact of rising gas prices on Metro ridership. Staff reported July ridership stats, which are posted on the News & Information web page at [www.metro.net/news\\_info/ridership\\_avg.htm](http://www.metro.net/news_info/ridership_avg.htm). In addition, staff pointed out that there are a variety of factors working in Metro's favor to retain new riders. These include better service including the expansion of Metro Rapid and the fall opening of the Metro Orange Line, new pass programs, and more ways to get transit information. Reporters were told that for the price of a \$3 gallon of gas, riders can purchase a \$3 Metro Day Pass and could save more than \$5,000 annually using transit or other rideshare programs compared to driving solo in a car, truck, or SUV.

### **Metro Red Line Portal For Metro Orange Line Users**

The Los Angeles Times is doing a story on recommendations the City of Los Angeles has made to Metro regarding the prioritization of an underground portal that connects the Metro Red and Metro Orange Lines. Staff reported that there is currently a knock-out panel at the Red Line subway terminal that will allow for future construction of a tunnel and portal that could transfer passengers between the stations. The additional portal at the Metro Red Line Station is studied in the agency's San Fernando Valley North-South Transit Corridor Regionally Significant Transportation Investment Study completed in 2003, and is listed as a recommended improvement to be phased in over time subject to the availability of future funding. Metro is evaluating the feasibility of portal construction under various scenarios, including joint development. Staff reported that Metro has several measures in place to ensure safe pedestrian crossing when the Metro Orange Line opens, including signalized traffic lights, perimeter fencing, signage, sidewalks, striping and law enforcement. No publication date for the story has been determined.

### **Metro Toy Buses Selling For Twice The Price On Ebay**

Both models of Metro Local and Metro Rapid toy buses, that are currently available in the [Metro Store](#), are selling for \$24.95 (double our retail) on Ebay. The seller will add in a custom painted destination sign and tail lights for a total price of \$39.95. [http://www.collect-corner.net/nabi\\_model\\_buses.htm](http://www.collect-corner.net/nabi_model_buses.htm)

### **Update on Contract Bus Services Labor Issue - Day 31**

Transportation Concepts Inc. (TCI), made 100% on-time rollout this morning.

There were seven drivers and three teamster representatives on the picket lines.  
There were no incidents between TCI operators and picketers.

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