



Metro

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Conservative Republicans Propose Major Highway and Transit Cuts to Offset Hurricane Relief

The Republican Study Committee, a group of conservative Republicans in the House of Representatives, unveiled a laundry list of spending cuts and revenue raisers to pay for the costs of hurricane relief. Dubbed "Operation Offset", their plan calls for the elimination or reduction of nearly 100 government programs, include repealing over 6,000 highway earmarks in SAFETEA-LU as well as eliminating the New Starts transit program. The committee asserts that getting rid of all highway earmarks would yield \$25 billion over ten years, while overall savings from the cancellation of the New Starts program would amount to \$12.2 billion over ten years.

Reaction to the plan by House and Senate leadership has been lukewarm at best. House Speaker Dennis Hastert strongly objected to the idea of eliminating highway earmarks and also characterized various other proposals as non-starters. In addition, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Jerry Lewis expressed a willingness to consider these ideas in a deliberate manner but took exception to hearing about them in the media. Based on previous budget battles, very few, if any, of the ideas advanced in "Operation Offset" will be approved by Congress.

On a related note, the San Francisco Chronicle reported that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi indicated she is willing to return \$70 million out of \$129 million designated for San Francisco projects in SAFETEA-LU to help pay for relief efforts -- all except \$59 million set aside for the Golden Gate Bridge seismic retrofit project, which she considers essential for national security and public safety.

Attached for your information is the complete list of spending cuts as proposed by the Republican Study Committee.

Metro Board To Purchase 200 New Buses

Various media outlets attended today's special Board meeting. Those in attendance included the Daily News, City News Service, La Opinion, KMEX-TV, Metro Networks and KFWB radio. Media Relations issued a news release today that outlined what actions were taken by the Board in terms of the number of new buses ordered.

http://www.metro.net/press/2005/09_september/metro_123.htm. The Los Angeles Times and a USC broadcast journalism reporter inquired about Board action after the meeting. Stories may appear tonight or tomorrow.

Night Of Stars Award Winners

Media Relations issued a news release highlighting the recent "Night of Stars" event. http://www.metro.net/press/2005/09_september/metro_132.htm The release notes the seven individuals who received the special "Spotlight" award at the ceremonies last Friday.

California Hispanic Corporate Council 2005 Speakers Series

I was invited by the California Hispanic Corporate Council to speak at their monthly speakers meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2005 at the Metro Headquarter Building. My presentation covered Metro's role in transportation in the Los Angeles region. I also summarized my professional background as it relates to leadership styles. The California Hispanic Corporate Council is an organization composed of mostly Hispanic professionals in business, law and public service positions within the public and private sectors.

Metro Orange Line - Lankershim Depot Fence

Metro Creative Services has designed over 600 ft. of continuous vinyl banners to cover the chainlink fences surrounding the historic North Hollywood train depot. The colorful graphics depict a street map layout of the Valley with boldly oversized street and neighborhood names. Interspersed within the map are smaller scaled, eye level images of historic photographs with brief text describing the origin of the street names themselves. For example - Victory Boulevard - named in honor of the Valley's World War I veterans in 1924. The fences shield the Depot and assist in restricting possible vandalism. Banners will be installed in mid October, prior to the Orange Line opening.

Update on Contract Bus Services Labor Issue - Day 52

Transportation Concepts Inc. (TCI) 100% on-time rollout again this morning. There were nine drivers and three teamster representatives on the picket lines.

Someone entered the TCI yard before pullout this morning and removed the ignition keys from eight buses. Mechanics were able to start these buses and get them out into service. TCI has called the LASD to have them come out and file a report. Last night was the first night since the beginning of the picketing that TCI did not have overnight security in their yard.

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