



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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**CEO Roger Snoble**

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## **House Passes Temporary Spending Bill; Homeland Security Appropriations Bill Cleared for Final Approval**

Earlier today, the House of Representatives passed a stopgap continuing resolution (HJRes 68) that provides temporary funding for federal agencies through November 18, 2005. With the start of the new federal fiscal year slated to begin on October 1, and given that only two out of ten appropriations bills have been signed into law, this temporary spending bill was necessary in order to avoid a government shutdown.

Under this continuing resolution, funding levels for federal programs and activities through November 18 are limited to last year's enacted level or the spending level in the House-passed version of the FY2006 appropriations bill, whichever is lower. The Senate is expected to take up the temporary spending bill before the end of this week.

On a related issue, House and Senate negotiators reached final agreement today on the Homeland Security Appropriations bill for FY2006. The \$30.8 billion package includes \$150 million for transit security, along with \$8 million for rail security inspectors and explosive detection canines. Unfortunately, the \$150

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million that was agreed to this year is identical to last year's enacted level, despite heightened attention to transit security as a result of the London incident on July 7. The final conference agreement is expected to be approved next week by the House and Senate.

### **SB 66 Signed by the Governor Today**

The Governor signed SB 66, the Bay Bridge cleanup legislation, today. SB 66 is the bill that was passed as a follow on measure to the original Bay Bridge funding plan and includes a number of important funding protections. Metro's advocacy team urged the inclusion of a number of provisions that protect state transportation funds, and language requiring the California Transportation Commission to develop new guidelines, which will address the concerns of local agencies that advanced local funds during the recent state budget crises. This process will allow Metro to develop improved repayment terms and therefore improve future funding opportunities.

### **California Transportation Commission Re-Allocates Funds to the I-405 High Occupancy Vehicle Lane**

The California Transportation Commission has re-allocated \$9.5 million to the I-405 High Occupancy Vehicle Lane project. Metro's advocacy team in Sacramento worked to secure passage of AB 216 during the last week of session, which allowed the CTC to engage in such reallocations.

### **Media At Today's Board Meeting**

The Daily News, City News Service and Ch. 34 covered today's Metro Board meeting. Reporters may do stories on the Teamsters ongoing strike against Transportation Concepts Inc., and possible stories about a dispute with LAUSD over Eastside light rail construction and how to mitigate impact on Ramona Opportunity High School as well as a study on a downtown regional connector. The Daily News may do a story on the purchase of video cameras and equipment and the issue of using a contractor to install the units instead of ATU employees.

### **Metro Orange Line Ride Event**

Ch. 34 interviewed Media Relations staff today regarding the Metro Orange Line for a feature story. Media Relations also issued a media advisory and called media outlets inviting them to a sneak-peak ride on the Metro Orange Line set for tomorrow at 10 a.m. beginning in North Hollywood.

### **Rideshare Week**

Media Relations today issued a news release challenging commuters and others

to share a ride next week and save money on gas while easing traffic and air pollution. Next week is “Rideshare Week” with Metro reminding people that carpooling or taking public transit once a week can save the average commuter 125 gallons of gas a year.

### **Ready to Assist with Evacuations, Fire Impacts Service on Line 161**

If called upon, Metro Bus Operations will assist with fire related evacuations using buses from the Sun Valley Division 15. The wildfire has affected service on Metro Bus Line 161 (Thousand Oaks Transit Center to Warner Center via the 101 Freeway) due to freeway exit closures. Operators are following detour notices.

### **Metro Takes 7th Place, Overall, at American Public Transit Association’s Annual International Bus Rodeo**

Metro’s four-member team took seventh place in the overall transit agency competition at the APTA International Bus Rodeo Finals, held Sept. 24 in Dallas. King County Metropolitan Transit of Seattle was judged best transit property. San Mateo County Transit District placed second and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit (WMATA) took third place.

Arthur Winston Division 5 Mechanics Andrew Warren Jr., Rommel Vargas and Frank Forde; and Central City Division 1 Operator Sam Morales also will represent Metro at APTA’s next International Bus Rodeo being held next spring.

### **Citizens Advisory Committee**

At the monthly general assembly meeting of the Citizen’s Advisory Council (CAC) held Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup>, Bus Operations Control Director Tom Jasmin discussed how Metro could learn from the catastrophes of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Among the lessons learned are that transit and emergency response planners should be more familiar with the needs of the transit-dependent and address the reasons why some people choose not to evacuate. Jasmin also shared with the CAC a study by the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, which identified various policy and planning strategies that can help create a more efficient, equitable and resilient transport system during emergency response situations.

### **Update on Contract Bus Services Labor Issue - Day 58**

Transportation Concepts Inc. made 100% on-time rollout this morning. There were 11 drivers and three teamster representatives on the picket lines. There were no incidents between the TCI drivers and picketers.

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## Of Note

On this day in 1983, the California Transportation Commission ranked Metro Rail as one of the state's 10 high priority transit projects. The State approved \$32.6 million for the acquisition of the Santa Fe rail yard to be used for Metro Rail storage and maintenance shops. Also on this day in 1986, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Metro Rail Project at the site of the Civic Center station, marking the return of urban rail after many years of mass rapid transit planning by the LAMTA (1951-1964) and SCRTD (1964-1993).

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