



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble

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## Metro Orange Line End-To-End Media Ride

The Daily News, Los Angeles Times, Valley Star, KCSN, City TV Channel 35, Univision Channel 34, and Asia Pacific News covered this morning's preview ride on the Metro Orange Line. Director Zev Yaroslavsky hosted the event and Director Pam O'Connor, John Catoe and I attended as well. Reporters and camera crews got an authentic passenger experience as a sleek Metro Liner drove the line at full operational speeds. Metro has reached substantial completion of construction of the rapidway now scheduled for an October 29 opening date. Media Relations issued a news release regarding the status of the project. Stories are expected to run this weekend.

## Metro's Big Rig Tow Event

Media Relations issued a News Advisory today inviting reporters to attend Monday's press event where Metro will join Mayor Villaraigosa, Long Beach Councilwoman Lowenthal, CHP and Caltrans officials in announcing the start-up of the new Metro Freeway Service Patrol Big Rig Towing Service exclusively along the I-710 (Long Beach) freeway. The event is set to start at 10:30 a.m., Monday, Oct. 3 at the BNSF Railway Company parking lot located at 4940 Sheila Street, adjacent to the busy I-710 freeway in the City of Commerce. The Long Beach Press Telegram inquired about the new program today and is

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expected to run a story tomorrow.

### **Underground Visit To Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Construction Site**

This afternoon I visited the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension project construction site to view the two Earth Pressure Balance tunnel boring machines (TBMs) recently delivered from Germany to the 1st and Boyle staging site. The TBM's cutter head and shields (about 22 ft diameter), screw conveyor, ventilation equipment and trailing gear will be lowered through an access shaft and assembled about sixty feet underground at the bottom of the Boyle Heights - Mariachi Plaza station excavation. I was able to go underground and walked the length of the 60' wide by 60' deep by 600' long excavation where I viewed the construction progress of the 4'-8" thick concrete slab that has been placed over half of the station excavation in preparation for the assembly and launching of the TBMs.

### **Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Update**

The Los Angeles Times is preparing a story on the progress made so far and construction activities taking place on the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension project. Staff updated the reporter with information regarding the tunnel boring machines that have arrived from Germany. Staff reported that actual tunneling with the machines should take place at the end of December or the first part of January. A Times photographer toured various construction sites today. The story is expected to run in the next few days.

### **Mobility 21 Coalition - Final Regional Meeting**

The Mobility 21 Coalition will hold its final regional meeting prior to the annual summit on Friday, October 7 at 9:30 a.m. at Los Angeles Valley College. Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Director Zev Yaroslavsky will present a history of the Metro Orange Line project, followed by a media event with the San Fernando Valley business community. Metro Board Member Richard Katz will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Local elected officials have been invited to address the group. A full breakfast will be served and preview tours of the Metro Orange Line will be offered to attendees. There is no charge for the meeting; however, reservations are required for the meeting and the tours. Please see attachments for additional information.

### **U.S. 101 Closed for 55 Hours This Weekend for Realignment Project**

Caltrans will close various southbound U.S. 101 lanes from SR-110 to Mission Road for up to 55 hours this weekend as part of a realignment project in coordination with Metro and the City of Los Angeles. Two lanes will remain open daily and one lane nightly, except for a full closure 1 a.m. to 8 a.m. Sunday

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morning, October 2. The project will realign the freeway for easier transitioning through the area, replace on- and off-ramps at Hewitt and Vignes Streets with new ramps at Garey Street, and construct a bridge over the US-101 and Commercial Street connecting Union Station in preparation for the Metro Gold Line Eastside extension. Construction is estimated for completion in winter 2006/2007.

Link to Caltrans press release: <http://snipurl.com/cgg8>

### **New Ticket Vending Machines**

Beginning Monday October 3, new Universal Fare System (UFS) ticket vending machines will be installed at two key Metro Red Line stations: Union Station on Monday and Tuesday, and then 7<sup>th</sup>/Metro on Wednesday through Friday. The installation plan will move on to the Metro Blue Line in late October. These are the same new ticket vending machines that have been in service on the Metro Gold Line since Spring 2005 and operate in a cash-only mode. On the bus system, installation of fare boxes started at Division 1 (6<sup>th</sup> and Central) today and will continue for three consecutive weekends. Further information will be provided as installation progresses on the UFS project.

### **Buses Serving Middle School on Sunset Blvd**

The Palisades Post weekly newspaper inquired today regarding some complaints it has received concerning over crowded buses on Line 2 (Sunset Blvd.) that serve a nearby Middle School. David Armijo, Westside/Central Service Sector General Manager told the reporter that they would send a road supervisor out to the location to monitor the situation and if need be, may add additional buses in the afternoon to ease the overcrowding.

### **Update on Contract Bus Services Labor Issue - Day 59**

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

### **CEO Upcoming Meetings and Events**

Next week I will be out of the office on Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday October 7<sup>th</sup>; Additionally, I will be attending the Big Rig Tow Media Event; Asian American Architects/Engineers Assn. 28th Annual Awards Banquet as an honoree; and I will be meeting with Director Fasana, Supervisor Molina, Doug Failing, Juan Morales - City Manager of El Monte, and John Leung - CEO of Titan Group on the San Gabriel Valley Transit Village.

### **Of Note**

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On this day in 1972, a groundbreaking event was held for the El Monte Busway Terminal. After its opening in 1973, the I-10 El Monte Busway became, and continues to be, one of the most efficient HOV facilities in North America. With approximately 80 peak hour buses it also has one of the highest levels of bus use.

Also on this day in 1976, Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation creating the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (1976-1993) as a countywide planning, funding, coordinating and oversight agency. The Commission was successful in making the case for transportation improvements funded by two half-cent sales tax increases which voters approved in 1980 and 1990, as well as implementing the revival of regional commuter rail and urban light rail systems.

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