



Metro

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In this issue:

- [Fiscal Watch Team in U.S. Senate Calls for Elimination of Highway and Transit Earmarks](#)
- [Metro Orange Line Cost Savings](#)
- [Metro Orange Line Public Safety Signage](#)
- [Los Angeles City Council Approves Metro Orange Line Grand Opening as Special Event](#)
- [KIIS-FM Community Affairs Program On Metro Orange Line](#)
- [Parking Capacity At Metro Rail Stations](#)

Fiscal Watch Team in U.S. Senate Calls for Elimination of Highway and Transit Earmarks

A group of fiscal conservatives in the U.S. Senate yesterday unveiled a \$125 billion package of spending cuts to offset the cost of hurricane relief. The group, known as the Senate Fiscal Watch Team, proposes to eliminate all transportation earmarks in SAFETEA-LU, which would save \$24 billion. Other proposals include imposing an across-the-board cut of 5% on all discretionary spending programs (except for defense and homeland security) and freezing cost of living adjustments for members of Congress and federal employees, with the exception of military and law enforcement personnel. However, moderates in the Senate have voiced strong opposition to new cuts, thereby giving this package little chance of passing.

While the plan by the Senate Fiscal Watch Team may not prevail in its current form, Congress is nevertheless expected to move on a package of spending cuts this year, including an across-the-board "haircut" of 2%. This would have a direct impact on Metro's funding requests for this year, including Eastside and bus earmarks. We will continue to keep you informed of any new developments.

Metro Orange Line Cost Savings

The Daily News interviewed staff today on how much Valley commuters can save by utilizing the Metro Orange Line and all Metro Bus and Rail service compared with solo driving. Staff reported that commuters can save more than \$5,000 per year by switching to public transit. The story may run tomorrow.

Metro Orange Line Public Safety Signage

This week Metro will post signs along the landscaped, non-public areas of the Orange Line alignment to provide notification to the public of the presence of potentially contaminated soil. These areas of the alignment are also posted with no trespassing signs. The purpose of the public safety signage is to inform the public of possible risks to potential exposure to contaminated areas - even though we believe the risks to be negligible. Our management of the Orange Line soil remediation earned recognition by the California Environmental Protection Agency as a model for brownfields redevelopment.

Los Angeles City Council Approves Metro Orange Line Grand Opening as Special Event

The Los Angeles City Council today approved a Councilmember Wendy Greuel and Tom LaBonge motion declaring the Grand Opening of Metro Orange Line Service on October 28-30, 2005 a Special Event. This designation means various City departments will perform services to support the grand opening and the City will waive an estimated \$5,800 in fees and salary costs. I would like to thank the Councilmembers for their ongoing support of the Metro Orange Line.

KIIS-FM Community Affairs Program On Metro Orange Line

KIIS-FM interviewed Metro Community Relations staff today for the station's community affairs program. Staff detailed Metro's community relations efforts in the San Fernando Valley to support the opening of the Metro Orange Line, including its school safety efforts. The program is scheduled to air Saturday morning on KIIS-FM and Sunday afternoon on KBIG-FM.

Parking Capacity At Metro Rail Stations

The Los Angeles Times is preparing a series of transportation related stories for the Saturday edition of their newspaper. A Times writer interviewed planning staff today about parking that is available along various Metro Rail stations and in particular, parking at the North Hollywood Metro Red Line station. Staff reported that any joint development at that location would include increasing the parking capacity as part of that joint development.

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