



Metro

Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble

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California Transportation Commission Approves \$98 Million Repayment for Metro Orange Line

Today, by a vote of 5-0, the California Transportation Commission approved Metro's request for a \$98 million repayment for the Metro Orange Line as part of its meeting held in Sacramento. The \$98 million Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) Letter of No Prejudice repayment restores local Proposition C 25% funds Metro used to cover the funding gap created when the TCRP program was suspended due to the State General Fund deficit. Since the \$98 million was drawn down from Proposition C 25% funds in the form of bonds, the \$98 million State repayment will now allow those monies to be re-used for other Proposition C 25% eligible projects going forward. We will recommend that the Board program the Proposition C 25% funds to alternate uses at its December 15, 2005 meeting.

Metro Orange Line Safety Meeting

Los Angeles City Councilmember Wendy Greuel convened a meeting today (Nov. 3) to discuss Metro Orange Line safety following yesterday's two accidents on the busway. Richard Hunt and I attended the meeting along with Supervisor Yaroslavsky, LA City Councilmember Tom LaBonge and representatives from the offices of several elected officials as well as LADOT, LAPD, LAFD and LASD. Numerous safety proposals were discussed at the meeting. Some of which can be implemented immediately. The group will meet again next week.

Following the safety meeting, Mayor Villaraigosa, Supervisor Yaroslavsky and Councilmember Greuel held a press conference which numerous media attended. Mayor Villaraigosa spoke of the actions taken to deploy traffic officers at 13 key Metro Orange Line intersections and increased traffic enforcement. Supervisor Yaroslavsky cited the go-slow order of ten miles per hour for the Metro Liners through intersections and the need to protect our buses, passengers and drivers. Councilmembers LaBonge and Jack Weiss also spoke at the press conference.

Metro Orange Line safety will be on the Metro's Committee agenda as well as the LA City Council's Transportation Committee meeting for next Wednesday.

U.S. Senate Clears Amtrak Reform Measure

Today, by a vote of 93-6, the U.S. Senate approved a measure that reauthorizes Amtrak and enacts a series of reforms that pave the way for eventual privatization of the passenger railroad's operations. The provision, which was added to the budget reconciliation package, was adopted in order to prevent a presidential veto of the FY2006 Transportation Appropriations bill. The spending bill, which is still awaiting final negotiations between the House and Senate, has triggered a veto threat because it fails to include Amtrak reforms while providing funding levels well above the Administration's budget request. Among other things, the amendment adopted by the Senate today allows states to petition Amtrak to let them take over money-losing long-distance routes. Another provision permits freight railroad companies to bid on taking over Amtrak routes that use the companies' tracks. Despite the Senate's action, it is unclear whether it will prompt the Administration to remove its veto threat on the transportation spending bill.

Goods Movement Action Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting

The Multi-County Goods Movement Action Plan is a collaborative effort among Metro, Caltrans, Orange County Transportation Authority, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Bernardino Associated Governments, Southern California Associated Governments and Ventura County Transportation Commission to evaluate the financial, economic and environmental impacts of Ports' expansion and the growth of goods movement activities in the region. The first Multi-County Goods Movement Action Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting was held on October 26, 2005. In this meeting staff introduced the different agencies participating in this project and the consultant team. The consultant team reviewed the tasks associated with this project and the overall structure. Public and private stakeholder attendees at this meeting provided input and recommendations to the group. This group will serve in an advisory capacity with an emphasis on assisting the project partners in developing a consensus-based goods movement action plan that is realistic, balanced, and viable. The next Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting will be held on December

21, 2005.

APTA Peer Review Members Brief Congressman Henry Waxman in Washington, DC

Congressman Henry Waxman (D-30) was briefed today, November 3, 2005, by two members of the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) peer review panel that recently examined the public safety issues related to tunneling along the Wilshire Corridor. Peer review members Fred N. Kissell, an expert in dust and methane control for mining and tunneling and Raymond E. Sandiford, the Chief Geotechnical Engineer for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey conducted the briefing. According to APTA, the briefing went well and the panel members received positive feedback from the Congressman regarding the process that was followed to reach their findings. A final report will be issued later this month on the panel's recommendations.

Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board Meeting

The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board met today and approved the addition of Robert Pearman from the firm of Robinson & Pearman, LLP to the General Counsel services contract with Nossaman, Guthner, Knox & Elliott, LLP. The Board also approved a resolution to permit the prime contractor under the Design-Build Contract for the Mid-City/Exposition Corridor Light Rail Transit Project to enter into subcontracts for construction work using a competitive procurement process. The Expo Board also received and filed reports on monthly project progress and on the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Final EIS/EIR) for the Los Angeles Mid-City Westside Transit Corridor, Mid-City/Exposition Light Rail Transit Project.

Correction to Daily Brief

In yesterday's Daily Brief there was an error in the article "Reps. Dreier and Thomas to Vie for Vacant House Chairmanship?" The article stated that Dreier, who chairs the House Rules Committee, and Thomas, chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, are both term-limited in 2007 and must step down from their chairmanships. The Rules Committee Chairmanship, according to the rules of the House of Representatives, is appointed directly by the Speaker of the House and is not subject to term limits.

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