



Metro

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CEO Roger Snoble

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Testing Strobe Lights On Metro Orange Line Buses

Board Member and Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky joined Metro San Fernando Valley Sector General Manager Richard Hunt for a Metro Orange Line safety press event today following numerous media requests to see how the strobe lights placed on Metro Orange Line buses will work. Channels 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 22 and 52, L.A. Times and Daily News went out to Metro's Chatsworth Bus Operating Division to see the prototype Metro Liner bus with strobe lights and talk to both the Supervisor and Richard Hunt about other safety measures being implemented along the Metro Orange Line. The test bus with the strobe lights was deployed on the alignment for testing purposes this afternoon. Media stories are expected to air tonight and tomorrow.

Proposition 42 Coalition Meeting

In an effort to mobilize a statewide advocacy campaign aimed at ensuring an allocation of Proposition 42 funds in next year's state budget, Metro and our Southern California agency partners organized and participated recently in a Proposition 42 coalition meeting in Sacramento. In addition to pushing for an allocation next year, the coalition will advocate for permanent protections for Proposition 42.

On a related note, a number of private sector interests have submitted to the Attorney General's office a series of initiatives to enact permanent protections for Proposition 42.

Legislative Analyst Office Report

As reported today, The Legislative Analyst's Office released its 2005-2006

Budget Outlook yesterday. The report forecasted an improved budget for next several years due to two major factors: an increase in revenues due to increases in personal income tax receipts and savings due to decreases in state expenditures. The projections in the report are a positive indication that the state could allocate Proposition 42 funds next year. It is also important to note that the report also assumes resumption of the Public Transportation Account Spillover funds allocations. Although this report is positive news in terms of the State Budget, a number of issues such as outstanding obligations to repay loans to education and transportation pose risks for future budgets.

California Transit Association Award

California Transit Association Technology Task Force recently presented the 2005 Technology Partnership Recognition award to Metro and the Municipal Operators for the partnering and alliances forged in Southern California to implement the regional smart card automated fare collection system. We are pleased that the Universal Fare System/Transit Access Pass project has had the support and commitment from our regional partners as we continue to work on getting smart cards operational among all transit operators. Recognition plaques were presented to all 11 participating organizations: LA Metro, Antelope Valley, Culver City, Gardena, Foothill, LA DOT, Long Beach, Montebello, Norwalk, Santa Clarita, and Torrance

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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
1 Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012-2952
Phone: 213-922-6888
Fax: 213-922-7447
