



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

**Monday November 21, 2005**

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**CEO Roger Snoble**

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## **Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee Approves Expo Financial Contribution and Final EIR Comments**

Last Friday, the Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee held a special meeting and approved two items related to Metro's Exposition Light Rail project: contributing \$40 million to the project and submitting comments on the Final EIR.

The Transportation Committee approved the Chief Administrative Officer's report recommending the preparation of a financial contribution agreement between the City and Metro that will allow payment of \$40 million over five years to the Exposition Light Rail Project inclusive of \$5 million for Grand Avenue mitigations in front of Los Angeles Trade Tech College. The item was amended to include recommendations from Mayor Villaraigosa. The amendments included language specifying that the City would not issue debt to make the contribution and that payments are conditional on approval of the Flower Street alignment. In addition, the City would not be responsible for any cost overruns and would receive a prorated amount of any project cost savings. This item will next be heard at the City Council but has not yet been scheduled.

The Committee also approved comments on the final EIR. Councilmember Bernard Parks stressed the importance of Park and Ride facilities for the Exposition Light Rail. The City Council will hear this item at this Tuesday's meeting so that the City's comments can be submitted by the Monday, November 28 public comment deadline.

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## **Northbound I-405 Ventura Boulevard Off-Ramp Grand Re-Opening Ceremony**

Supervisor Yaroslavsky and Director Fleming spoke for Metro this morning at a Caltrans media event to announce that the northbound I-405 Ventura Boulevard off ramp is reopening this Wednesday, weeks ahead of schedule. The off-ramp has been closed since July in connection with the \$46 million 101/405 Interchange Improvement Project, which will provide congestion relief and improve traffic flow at one of the busiest interchanges in the State. Metro has been aggressively and creatively pursuing funding to keep highway projects, such as the I-405/101 Interchange, moving forward despite budget cuts and shortfalls. State Assembly members Paul Koretz, Lloyd Levine and Cindy Montanez also spoke at this morning's event. Caltrans Director Doug Failing was the master of ceremonies. Channels 2/9, 4, 5, 7 11, KNX and KFWB covered today's event. Stories are expected to air later this afternoon.

## **Valley Magazine To Feature Metro Orange Line Art**

Metro staff invited a writer for Valley Magazine to join the Metro Orange Line art tour on Saturday. The art tour experience will be included in a feature article on Metro Orange Line destinations, which the writer has researched extensively. The article and photos by Mimi Kmet will be featured in the January/February issue of Valley Magazine.

## **Metro Orange Line Exceeds Ridership Estimates**

KCSN radio and USC Annenberg School of Journalism inquired today regarding Metro Orange Line ridership exceeding Metro's operational ridership estimates in the first few weeks of operation. Media Relations staff told reporters that Metro is pleased that ridership on the line has exceeded our estimates and hope that ridership continues to grow. The LA Times this morning ran a story regarding Metro Orange Line ridership surpassing original estimates, carrying between 10,000 and 12,000 boarding passengers on an average weekday. Several television stations this morning also ran stories about the success of the Metro Orange Line.

## **Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Construction Update- Los Angeles County Crematorium**

The Los Angeles Times interviewed construction staff today regarding the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension as well as the incident that had occurred during construction when work crews uncovered partial and full skeletal human remains while working on the project. The reporter was given a tour of the site and told that following protocols, work stopped immediately and archeologists were brought in. The bones discovered as well as other artifacts have been excavated

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and are being examined and will be re-buried in the next several months in appropriate ceremonies.

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