



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

**Wednesday December 14, 2005**

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**CEO Roger Snoble**

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### **Metro Bus Accident**

Seventeen people were injured today, two seriously, in a collision between a Metro Bus and a catering truck in the southwest Los Angeles area. The accident occurred at Adams Boulevard and Broadway shortly after 9 a.m. The bus, operating on Metro Local Line 55 was westbound on Adams Blvd. when it was struck in the left side by a catering truck traveling northbound on Broadway. The accident is still under investigation. Media Relations responded to the scene and assisted numerous media outlets that also responded to the accident site. News accounts of the accident are expected to run on local television station tonight.

### **Governing Magazine To Highlight Metro Bus System**

A reporter with Governing Magazine in Washington D.C. interviewed me today for an upcoming article planned for their February issue. The reporter is in town this week interviewing a number of individuals regarding how Los Angeles is making the experience of riding the bus better. The article will highlight our Metro Rapid program, the Metro Orange Line as well as new technologies Metro has incorporated into our bus system. The reporter also interviewed staff on the federal Consent Decree and its impacts on planning transportation projects for the region. The reporter rode the Metro Orange Line and the Metro Rapid Line along Wilshire Boulevard as well as the Metro Rail system to get a first-hand look at the Metro system.

### **San Gabriel Valley Transit Village Proposal**

The Los Angeles Times interviewed Metro San Gabriel Valley Service Sector General Manager Jack Gabig this afternoon for an upcoming story on a proposed San Gabriel Valley Transit Village. The proposed project would be a

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joint development project between the City of El Monte, Caltrans, Metro and a private developer that would be located on a 54-acre site adjacent to the I-10 Freeway and Santa Anita Avenue in El Monte. While funding for the project, estimated at between \$300 and \$400 million has not been identified, envisioned for the new transit village would be a newly constructed Metro Operating Division and the El Monte Bus Station would be expanded. The transit village would also create a new Metrolink station, a residential village, office buildings, a park and a complete retail, dining and entertainment center. The story is expected to run over the Holidays.

### **Wilshire Boulevard Peak-Period Bus Lane**

Today, December 14, the Los Angeles City Council approved the Rosendahl-Greuel motion to remove the Wilshire Boulevard peak-period bus lane in the two-block segment from Barrington to Federal. Councilwoman Greuel stressed that this removal is temporary and that this segment will revert back to a bus lane when the bus lane goes into operation in the VA property immediately to the east. The motion also reaffirms that no further portions of the bus lane will be removed, that peak period parking on Wilshire Boulevard will not be restored, and directs both LADOT and Metro to report back to the Transportation Committee on the progress of extending the bus lane in other areas and on other items.

In response to questions from the Council, Metro Community Relations staff reported that in this fiscal year mixed-flow improvements will be implemented at the Wilshire on-ramps to the 405 Freeway, and that next fiscal year there will be additional mixed-flow improvements at Wilshire and Sepulveda and the bus lane will be extended into the VA property. Staff also reported that at a recent meeting hosted by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, there was a commitment made by elected officials in the cities of Beverly Hills and Los Angeles to implement a peak period bus lane on Wilshire between Doheny and Fairfax by June 2006.

### **Universal Fare System Update**

UFS Ticket Vending Machines (TVM) and Stand Alone Validators (SAV) are now being installed on Metro Green Line. This activity will continue through next week Friday, December 23. After the Christmas holidays, work will resume until all 61 TVMs and 38 SAVs are completed. This will complete UFS rail installation to all but the Metro Red Line, which will begin immediately after the Metro Green Line is finished. On the Bus Operations side of UFS, installations on more than 70 new 60' articulated buses were completed in advance of the December shake up. In addition, resolution of the Receiver Vault capacity issue is progressing (please refer to separate Board Box sent this week), and installation of bus fare boxes will resume at Division 3 - San Gabriel Valley Sector, starting Friday night, January 13. Upon completion over several weekends, 5 bus divisions, or approximately ½ of the Metro bus fleet will now be outfitted with UFS fare boxes.

## **TSA Operation at Union Station**

The Transportation Security Administration is conducting a series of drills in 7 cities this week to test its capability to enhance security in non-aviation modes of transportation. LASD personnel will be teamed with Federal Air Marshals, TSA Inspectors and TSA K-9 personnel at Union Station during the exercise. All teams will be in uniforms except the team, which includes the Federal Air Marshals. TSA is testing their readiness and preparedness should federal resources be needed in the future at non-aviation venues. TSA informed me they have not received any threat of attack whatsoever on the local mass transit system in Los Angeles.

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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

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