



Metro

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House Passes 1% Across-the-Board Spending Cut

In the pre-dawn hours of this morning, the House of Representatives cleared one of the last spending bills for FY2006, the Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations bill. As expected, the conference agreement includes an across-the-board cut of 1% on all FY06 discretionary spending, with the exception of veterans' programs, in order to partially offset the cost of hurricane relief. This 1% reduction will apply not only to the \$80 million appropriation for the Eastside light rail project, but also to highway, highway safety and transit programs authorized in SAFETEA-LU. However, it is unclear if the DOD spending bill will ultimately become law. The conference agreement includes controversial language that would open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling, which has prompted Senate Democrats to threaten a filibuster unless the provision is removed. We will keep you apprised of any new developments.

Congressman Waxman Introduces Bill To Reverse Wilshire Tunnel Ban

Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) introduced legislation last Friday (H.R. 4571) that would allow subway tunneling along Wilshire Boulevard. The Congressman's legislation comes just over one week after the release of an independent peer review panel, organized by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), issued a report which concluded that it is "possible to both safely tunnel and safely operate a subway along the Wilshire Boulevard corridor using current tunneling, station, construction and operation technologies." Following a methane gas explosion and fire in the Fairfax area in

1985, Congressman Waxman inserted language in the Fiscal Year 1986 transportation appropriations measure that restricted federal funding for tunneling for a subway in the Wilshire Corridor. The bill now being proposed by Congressman Waxman would, if passed into law, effectively reverse this tunneling restriction.

Tournament of Roses Queen and Court Metro Gold Line Ride

Gerald Francis, General Manager of Rail Operations and I will join the 2006 Tournament of Roses Queen and her Royal Court for the Court's inaugural ride on the Metro Gold Line tomorrow starting at the Del Mar Station. The Queen and Court will help promote public transit to the Tournament of Roses parade, post-parade float viewing and football game. Numerous media are expected to attend. The event will be followed by a photo session at Sierra Madre Villa Station and the promotional photo included on the front of the Pasadena Yellow Pages Directory.

Metro Green Line Station Accident

Metro fielded several media calls inquiring about an accident, which occurred at the Aviation/105 Metro Green Line Station at approximately 9:06 a.m. this morning. The accident occurred between an LAX shuttle bus and a First Transit Bus parked in the station's layover zone. The shuttle bus operator was apparently assisting a disabled patron off the shuttle bus when the bus began rolling. The driver then reached through the window of the bus in an effort to either set the brakes or open doors when the bus collided with the First Transit Bus, pinning the driver between both vehicles. Police report that the bus operator was killed as a result of his injuries.

Metro to Offer Free Rides During Holidays to Promote Public Safety

To promote public safety during the holidays, the Board authorized free rides on all Metro buses and trains starting at 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24, through Christmas Day, December 25, ending at midnight. Metro also will provide free rides on New Year's Eve, December 31, beginning at 9 p.m. through New Year's Day, January 1, ending at midnight. The Board approved free rides last Thursday after Director Parks introduced a motion.

Metro and Big Blue Buses Move to New Pico Rimpau Terminal

Next Thursday December 22, Metro and Big Blue Bus operations at the Pico/Rimpau terminal are scheduled to relocate to a new terminal as part of the Midtown joint development project. This new terminal, which provides a new, modern location for passengers, is adjacent to the current site, which was last developed in 1964 when it converted from streetcar and bus service to all bus. In 1998 Metro was approached to sell the terminal property to a developer for

assessed value, plus a new facility within a new development, built on a permanent easement. Metro obtained Board approval in 1999.

The development deal changed hand several times until 2003, when the current developer started design, environmental review, and permitting of the entire development including the new terminal. The development is a mixed-use big box retail project, anchored by Home Depot and Target. Terminal construction started in May 2005. The routes operating into the new terminal will be Metro Lines 30, 31, 330 and Big Blue Bus 5, 7, 12 and 13.

AnsaldoBreda 2550 Light Rail Vehicle Update

The first two AnsaldoBreda Light Rail Vehicles, #701 and #702, are at the Metro Gold Line and the main line testing is 90 per cent complete. These two vehicles have been successfully coupled and will be tested in the yard and on the main line as a two car consist. Vehicle #701 will be moved to the Metro Green Line and Metro Blue Line for further main line tests by the end of this month.

Vehicles #703 and #704 are in functional test at the AnsaldoBreda plant in Italy and will be delivered to the Metro Gold Line for testing by late June and early July of 2006. Vehicle #705 is in the modification stage following Metro's First Article Inspection (FAI) at the manufacturer's plant and will be delivered to the Metro Gold Line for testing by mid-March 2006.

Universal Fare System Transit Access Pass (TAP)

The Metro TAP Executive Team led by Alex Clifford, and including Matt Raymond, Carolyn Flowers, Terry Matsumoto, and Carol Inge have been briefed on the TAP Scope of Work and the Negotiated Procurement Process in preparation for the Source Selection Panel's contract award recommendation.

Muni GMs under the leadership of Allan Pollock, General Manager of Montebello Bus Lines, have formed their Ad Hoc team consisting of Doran Barnes, General Manager of Foothill Transit and Steve Cunningham, General Manager of Culver City Bus Lines to complement the Metro TAP Executive Team. Together, this group will spearhead the formation of the Regional Executive Oversight Committee and begin advancing regional issues to be presented to the Metro Board as TAP begins implementation.

One of the first issues I will be presenting to the Board in February will be our joint Metro-Muni recommendation on the funding of Regional TAP operations, along with the recommendation of the award to the successful TAP contractor.

Of Note

The Pico/Rimpau loop originally opened in April 1935. Predecessor company

Los Angeles Railway (1911-1945) constructed the transfer facility as a way to reduce road congestion on Pico during the PM rush hour. A joint operating agreement by Los Angeles Railway, Santa Monica Municipal Bus Lines and Bay Cities Transit Company ensured passengers could transfer safely between bus service and the "P" rail line (East 1st St through downtown to Pico/Rimpau) without having to cross tracks or streets.

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