



Metro

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Senior Staff for Congressman Waxman and Sherman Take Metro Tour

Congressional aides from the Washington, D.C. offices of Congressmen Brad Sherman (D-27) and Henry Waxman (D-30) toured Metro facilities this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Congressman Sherman's Legislative Aide on transportation issues, Rebecca Carlton, was given a tour of the Metro Orange Line on the first day of the tour. On Thursday, Congressman Henry Waxman's Chief of Staff Patricia Delgado joined the tour and was taken to view the Eastside construction site and the alignment for the planned Exposition Light Rail Line. The tour also included a ride on the Metro Red and Gold Lines, an executive briefing on our agency's commitment to Transit Oriented Development and a tour of the Bus Operations Control Center. This morning both congressional aides were given a briefing on our Metro Rapid system while riding a Rapid Bus on Wilshire Boulevard. Michael Tou, a senior field deputy for Congressman Sherman, participated in a portion of the Metro tour.

State Senate to Consider the I405 HOV Lane bill on Monday

On Monday January 9, the State Senate will consider SB 1026 (Kuehl) which will allow Metro, in partnership with Caltrans, to use the design build contracting method on the I-405 High Occupancy Vehicle Lane. This measure will be considered first in the Senate Transportation Committee and then immediately following that on the Senate floor.

Governor Schwarzenegger Announces his Strategic Growth Plan

In his State of the State Speech last night, Governor Schwarzenegger announced his Strategic Growth Plan, which outlines funding proposals for state infrastructure. The entire package would cost \$222 billion and includes General

Obligation Bonds, various existing revenues, a variety of new fees and other revenue bonds. The transportation component of this program would first come in two \$6 billion general obligation bond measures to be placed on the June 2006 and November 2008 ballots. The \$12 billion total would be divided into \$4 billion for trade infrastructure and \$8 billion for a variety of primarily highway related expenditures.

The Governor is proposing the following for Los Angeles County to be funded from the highway portion: \$350 million for the I-405 HOV lane, \$100 million for the I-5 Carmenita project, \$280 million for the HOV lane on I-10 and \$290 million for commuter rail improvements.

The fact that the Governor is proposing to raise significant dollars for highways is a positive and that the Proposition 42 protection he proposed is also welcome. However, it should be noted that funding was not proposed for public transit in Los Angeles County other than AMTRAK.

Governor Schwarzenegger held a press conference today at the Alameda Corridor East Project, highlighting his proposal.

In addition, Metro received calls from the Los Angeles Times, Daily News and Sacramento Bee regarding the Governor's plan. Reporters commented that there was little for transit; however, staff responded that the proposal would evolve as bills are heard in the Legislature. Staff also noted that Los Angeles County has not always received its equity share of some state gas tax funding based on its population and we hope that could be rectified.

Photo Enforcement On Metro Orange Line

The Urban Transportation Monitor interviewed staff today regarding Metro's additional safety measures implemented on the Metro Orange Line. Staff reported that its latest measure has been to move forward with plans for photo enforcement cameras at 12 intersections. Metro has hired a contractor to develop design drawings for placement of the cameras. LADOT will be responsible for their installation. The story is expected in the publication's next edition.

Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events

Next week I will be meeting with the Municipal Operator's General Managers, Jim Ryan from the Federal Transit Administration, and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. I will be attending the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board meeting and speaking at the Santa Monica Rotary Luncheon.

Of Note

On this date in 2000, a wide-eyed group of elementary school pupils looked on as a team of archaeologists excavated a portion of the historic Campo de Cahuenga in a city park next to the Metro Red Line's Universal City station. The team unearthed and then preserved several portions of the original foundation and floor of an ancient adobe building. At that site on Jan. 13, 1847, Mexican General Andres Pico signed documents capitulating to U.S. forces under the leadership Lt. Col. John C. Fremont, an act that laid the groundwork for California to become the nation's 31st state.

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