



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

**Wednesday May 10, 2006**

20060510-0

**CEO Roger Snoble**

## **In this issue:**

- [Shortage of Operators/Agreement with United Transportation Union](#)
- [Congressional Panel Examines Highway Capacity and Freight Mobility Issues](#)
- [APTA Procurement Standards Oversight Committee](#)
- [Of Note](#)

---

## **Shortage of Operators/Agreement with United Transportation Union**

Over the past year-and-a half, Transit Operations has been reporting the impact of manpower shortage on service delivery, overtime and employee morale.

As you know, Metro is currently understaffed by 265 operators. To address your concerns with respect to possible impacts on service, a discussion was initiated with the United Transportation Union (UTU). The leadership of the UTU and Metro have jointly agreed to a temporary approach to help offset the negative impacts of the current operator shortage. Working in partnership, we have agreed to have Part-Time Operators work more hours (on a voluntary basis) until the next service change of June 24, 2006. In the spirit of these negotiations, we believe that we have arrived at a more balanced use of our current manpower.

Attached is the UTU Bulletin notifying their members.

## **Congressional Panel Examines Highway Capacity and Freight Mobility Issues**

The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee convened the first in a series of hearings today to examine the current state of freight mobility and the challenges posed by the imminent shortage of freight capacity on U.S. highways. In his testimony, DOT Undersecretary Jeffrey Shane called attention to the severe bottleneck at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and cited the staggering anticipated growth in the volume of trade at the two ports by 2020. He called for the increased application of congestion pricing and variable tolling strategies as a means of reducing congestion and specifically referenced the 91 Freeway as an example. Shane also mentioned the implementation of the "Pier

---

Pass" program at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach as an innovative means of relieving congestion.

Ranking Member Jim Oberstar (D-MN) characterized as "frightening" the latest congestion data from the Texas Transportation Institute. He also lamented the declining emphasis on intermodal strategies, as called for in the original ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991), and took exception to the Administration's reliance on market-based solutions to congestion.

In addition, Lance Grenzeback of Cambridge Systematics, Inc., cited in his testimony six freeway interchanges in Los Angeles County that made the top 25 highway bottlenecks for trucks: 1) San Bernardino Freeway, 2) SR 134 at the SR 2 interchange, 3) Long Beach Freeway, 4) SR 60 at the I-605 interchange, 5) I-405 at the I-605 interchange, and 6) San Gabriel River Freeway.

The next set of hearings in the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee will focus on specific themes such as congestion around port terminals and rail facilities, funding challenges, and freight logistics.

### **APTA Procurement Standards Oversight Committee**

The committee held its first meeting in conjunction with the recent APTA Bus and Paratransit Conference in Anaheim. The committee, chaired by Metro's Procurement Chief, Lonnie Mitchell, is composed of members from public agencies, large and small, bus and rail manufacturers, contracted bus service operators, and industry consulting companies. Charles Stark, Metro's former Chief of Construction, is a member. The committee's efforts will span four to five years, depending on the number of standards ultimately developed. The first standard will be Guidelines for Planning Procurements, e.g., timeframes, required steps, etc. The Procurement Standards effort is the latest addition to a broad APTA program to develop, implement and maintain standards, recommended practices and design guidelines to achieve safety, reliability and efficiency in transit system design and operation.

### **Of Note**

On this date in 2005, solar panel installation at Metro Division 15 in Sun Valley and Metro Division 8 in Chatsworth is complete. The 1,638-panel installation is largest at a U.S. transit property, generating up to 426 kilowatts of electricity.

---

[Metro.net Home](#) | [Press Room](#) | [Projects & Programs](#) | [Meeting Agendas](#) | [Riding Metro](#) | [Metro Library](#)

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

---

