



Metro

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CEO Roger Snoble

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Senate Committee Provides \$100 Million for Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Project

Earlier today, the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations adopted its Fiscal Year 2007 Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, and Housing & Urban Development appropriations bill. This spending measure met the approval of its subcommittee of jurisdiction earlier this week. The bill includes \$100 million in funding for the Metro Gold Line Eastside Light Rail project and \$1 million for Metro buses and bus facilities. The bill also provides \$39 billion for federal highways and \$8.8 billion for the Federal Transit Administration. Both of these amounts reflect the Bush Administration's original budget request. Additionally, a total of \$1.4 billion was included for Amtrak, which represents an increase of \$106 million over the amount appropriated to the agency by Congress last year. The full Senate is expected to vote on this measure in September.

Tunnel Breakthrough Expected Soon on Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Project

Progress is being made on the tunnel portion of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. In fact, the "breakthrough" of one of the two tunnels between the 1st and Boyle Station and the 1st and Soto Station is expected to occur sometime between tomorrow afternoon and early Monday. More than 2,700 feet of tunnel has been completed between the two stations to date. Due to the safety concerns expressed by construction management and the contractor, media will not be invited to the breakthrough. Instead, Metro has arranged to have our own photographers document the event and then provide photos to any interested news media.

OIG'S Audit on Overtime Payments

The *Daily News* has received a copy of the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) Review of Overtime Payments report recently presented to the Board. In the audit, the OIG found that many employees were paid overtime in a manner that was not compliant with union agreements.

The OIG report estimates that Metro overpaid employees by a total of \$472,478 from June 2004 through July 2005. The OIG's report is based on their reading of the union agreement, which they interpret to mean that employees must work 40 hours of regular pay, before they are entitled to overtime pay. This would mean in a pay period with a holiday, union employees would have to work an additional 8 hours of regular time before they could collect overtime in that pay period because of the 8 hours of holiday pay.

Under my direction, Management Audit Services (MAS) conducted an analysis of overtime overcharging for the period May 2005 through May 2006. MAS reviewed 100% of all payroll transactions during the period. Based on MAS' review, there were some overpayments to employees; however, the amount of overpayment MAS calculated was less than \$50,000, which is .21% of total payroll for that time period.

During the review, MAS consulted with County Counsel regarding the appropriate interpretation of the contract language with regards to scheduled time off, such as holiday pay. County Counsel advised MAS that Metro's established practice of paying overtime in pay periods with scheduled time off is the appropriate way to interpret the contract language.

Staff is completing their review of all current union agreements and timekeeping practices, identifying instances where intent and actual contract language vary, and providing appropriate interim guidance or training to timekeepers and supervisors. The story is expected to run tomorrow.

Exposition Light Rail Groundbreaking Ceremony

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Exposition Light Rail project will be Friday, September 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Expo staff will send invitations at a later date containing specific details.

Media Attending Executive Management and Audit Committee Meeting

The *Los Angeles Times*, *Daily News* and City News Service attended today's Executive Management and Audit Committee meeting. Stories may appear

tomorrow regarding the deferral of the color designations item to the August Board meeting. Stories may also discuss a proposal by Mayor Villaraigosa requiring staff to report back next month on a plan to provide a “Free Transit Week” this summer or fall in which all rail and bus transit services in Los Angeles County (both Metro-operated and municipal operator services), would be free to the public.

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