



Metro

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U.S. House of Representatives Votes Unanimously to Overturn Ban on Subway Tunneling in Los Angeles

The U.S. House of Representatives voted this afternoon to adopt [H.R. 4653](#), legislation authored by Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) that would overturn the current ban on tunneling for rail in certain "methane zones" in the City of Los Angeles. The ban was originally instituted by Congressman Waxman through the Fiscal Year 1986 U.S. Department of Transportation Appropriations Act (P.L. No. 99-190). To be enacted, H.R. 4653 must be approved by the U.S. Senate and signed into law by President Bush before the close of the 109th Congress later this year.

Senate Panel Reviews Transportation Secretary Nominee

Earlier today, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held a confirmation hearing for Mary Peters, President Bush's nominee to be the new U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Ms. Peters, who previously served as Federal Highway Administrator and Director of the Arizona Department of Transportation, explained to Committee members that she would pursue the following objectives if confirmed by the Senate: 1) Safety, 2) FAA reauthorization, 3) Improving transit capacity and reliability, 4) Amtrak reform, and 5) Maritime issues. Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK), Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, indicated his desire to have the full U.S. Senate confirm Peters prior to adjourning for the November midterm elections. Ms. Peters' nomination is generally viewed within the Senate as non-controversial, and she has garnered widespread support from numerous transportation industry stakeholders.

Traffic Reporters' Luncheon and Gold Pylon Awards

The Traffic Reporters' Luncheon and Gold Pylon Awards were held this morning at the Saddle Ranch Chop House adjacent to City Walk, Universal Studios Hollywood. The luncheon and awards are sponsored by the transportation agencies of Ventura, Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange and Los Angeles Counties. The event provides an opportunity to promote rideshare alternatives and California Rideshare Week (October 2nd-6th) to traffic reporters from all major radio stations. These reporters are, as a group, very supportive of rideshare efforts consistently promoting carpool lanes and "Rideshare Thursday." Each year, traffic reporters are asked to nominate fellow reporters who really go out of their way to promote ridesharing. This is the only awards program that honors traffic reporters and the group has repeatedly expressed their appreciation of the recognition and the opportunity to convene once a year.

Glendale Soundwall Community Meeting

Metro Media Relations distributed a news release today announcing a planned community meeting in Glendale to discuss construction of a soundwall along the eastbound side of State Highway 134 in Glendale. The meeting is set for Thursday, September 28th at 6:30 p.m. at the Glendale Central Library. Metro Countywide Planning staff will be on hand to provide information on the project to extend soundwall from Louise Street to Harvey Drive.

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