



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble



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## House Democrats Select New Transportation Committee Chairman

Congressman James Oberstar (D-MN), a 32-year veteran of the House of Representatives, has been selected by the Democratic Caucus to chair the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee when the 110th Congress convenes in January. Oberstar, who is regarded as the premiere transportation expert in Congress, is oftentimes referred to as the 54th member of the California Congressional Delegation for his detailed knowledge of California transportation projects and programs. Meanwhile, the House Republican Conference selected Congressman John Mica (R-FL) to serve as ranking minority member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The selection of Mica came as a surprise, as Congressman Tom Petri (R-WI) was widely seen as the leading candidate to occupy the top committee position on the GOP side.

Other committee assignments of significance include the selection of Congressman David Dreier (R-Covina) as the ranking minority member on the House Rules Committee and Congressman Jerry Lewis (R-Redlands) as the ranking member on the House Appropriations Committee. In addition, Congressman Henry Waxman (D-Los Angeles) was chosen by his Democratic colleagues to chair the influential Government Reform Committee. Subcommittee assignments for all standing committees in the House will be made in January.

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## **Repaving Set to Begin on the Metro Orange Line Busway**

Beginning Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, the Metro Orange Line Contractor will begin re-paving the portion of the busway between Tujunga Boulevard and the intersection of Burbank and Fulton Avenues (or between the Laurel Canyon and Valley College stations). Work will begin on Tuesday and will continue for approximately three weeks, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except in certain locations, where work will cease by sundown on Friday evenings in observance of the Jewish Sabbath.

This repaving effort will consist of the demolition of existing pavement, grinding, scraping, removal of material, placement of new material, compacting of soils and asphalt, re-striping of the busway and pedestrian crossings, and re-installation of traffic signal detector loops. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all intersections throughout the course of the work. Metro Orange Line buses will also be [detoured](#) off the busway to travel along Chandler Boulevard between Tujunga Boulevard and Fulton Avenue and along Fulton Avenue between Chandler Boulevard and Burbank Avenue. This diversion may increase running times for the line by up to five minutes.

A [construction notice](#) will be delivered to residences along the affected portion of the line beginning this afternoon. Signs will be posted at both the Laurel Canyon and Fulton/Valley College Stations in both English and Spanish. [Fliers](#) will also be posted in both languages inside the Metro Orange Liners. Variable message signs for the route will reflect the changed conditions beginning Monday. Media relations distributed a [press release](#) this afternoon with these details, as well.

## **Subway Extension Focus of *Sacramento Bee* article**

The *Sacramento Bee* is expected to publish an article this weekend examining the prospect of extending the subway along Wilshire Boulevard. The Mayor and other officials were interviewed for the story. Metro staff noted that the Board has not taken action on the extension proposal but that it may be considered along with other transit and highway projects next spring as part of the agency's Long Range Transportation Plan update process.

## **Lola is Dismantled**

Lola, the tunnel boring machine, retired from Metro in December after carving a 1.7-mile tunnel underneath First Street in East Los Angeles. Lola and her twin sister Vicki were renamed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa at a ceremony held to observe the 2-million-pound machines underground descent one year ago. Since then, Lola has plowed through 6,984 feet of earth in East Los Angeles, churning up 116,334 cubic yards of soil (equivalent to the length of football field

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116 feet high). Throughout the tunneling operation, the 344-foot long machine maintained a depth of 50 to 60 feet below the surface, while both carving a 21.3 foot diameter tunnel and installing pre-cast concrete tunnel liners.



### **Upcoming CEO Meetings and Events**

Next week, I will be meeting with Senator Alan Lowenthal, former Senator Kevin Murray, and Lee Dudley, the Director of the Workforce Investment Board. I will also be participating in two conference calls: one with Tom Skancke, President and CEO of The Skancke Company, and Steve Heminger, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission; and another with the California Department of Transportation regarding a California consensus on the future of the federal Programs. I will also be participating in the General Managers' Group Meeting and the Regionwide CEO Meeting. Finally, I will attend the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials' (COMTO) Holiday Membership Meeting and the Century City Association's (CCA) Holiday Party.

### **Of Note**

On this date in 1994, Metro and Northrop Grumman unveiled the first two lightweight bus shells or "test beds" developed as part of the Advanced Technology Transit Bus project to produce a light weight, low floor, fuel efficient

transit bus.

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