



Metro

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CEO Roger Snoble



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Consent Decree Update

As you know, in late October the court denied a motion by the Bus Riders Union (BRU) to extend the Consent Decree. Shortly thereafter, the BRU filed another motion in an effort to extend certain portions of the Consent Decree. This motion was denied on November 22, 2006. Last week, the Bus Riders Union filed a notice of appeal to Judge Hatter's denial.

The case was thoroughly litigated before Judge Hatter and it does not appear that the BUR will be able to present any basis for overturning the judge's ruling. As always, we will continue to keep you informed on this matter.

FTA's Debt Reserve Pilot Program

Earlier this week, the Federal Transit Administration announced the creation of a new Debt Service Reserve Pilot Program and is requesting agencies to submit proposals to participate for Debt Service Reserve reimbursement. Under this pilot program, grantees who received federal section 5307 funds may be allowed to reserve a portion of their allocation to get reimbursement for payments made to a bond reserve account. These new provisions are advantageous to agencies that issue their own bonds to finance capital improvements and do not draw down all of their section 5307 entitlements annually. Since we use all of our

annual section 5307 allocation for operations, the program (in its pilot form) would not currently benefit the agency. However, staff will follow the pilot program's developments to monitor for potential future cash flow opportunities.

***USA Today* to Feature Metro's TAP Program**

A reporter with *USA Today* recently interviewed Metro's Transit Access Pass (TAP) Program Manager to discuss the latest on the program's implementation. Staff explained that Metro is testing the integrity and reliability of the system before its full implementation in mid-2007. To date, all Metro buses have been retrofitted and 600 devices have been installed in the rail system in an effort to test and troubleshoot anything that may come up before opening the program to the public. Furthermore, all Metro employees and Board Members have been issued a TAP card in addition to students, faculty and staff from UCLA. A story may run Friday.

Briefing with *Daily News* Reporter

I met briefly today with Sue Doyle, a reporter for *the Daily News* who was recently assigned to cover Metro and transportation issues. A wide range of topics were discussed during our conversation in an effort to provide Ms. Doyle with an understanding of Metro's role in providing a wide variety of transportation alternatives and solutions for the region.

***New York Times* Story on Salaries for Transit CEOs**

A reporter with the *New York Times* inquired today regarding my salary level, including benefits. The newspaper is preparing a story comparing the salary of the New York City Metropolitan Transportation Authority CEO to the compensation packages for top transportation officials at other large transit agencies throughout the nation. The story is expected to run later this week.

January Service Sector Meetings

Media Relations distributed a news release this afternoon outlining Metro's Service Sector community meetings scheduled throughout the month of January. The release encourages patrons to attend the sector meeting in their community and offer input on how Metro Bus service may be improved.

Invitation for Bid for Upgrades to Divisions 10 and 18

Yesterday, an Invitation for Bid (IFB) was posted on Metro.net for new construct at Divisions 10 and 18. Specifically, the IFB is for new offices and storage spaces at Division 10's Maintenance Building and Tire Shop and for a new canopy structure to store parts at Division 18. Bids for this IFB are due by February 6th.

Board Members and their staff should refer all contractor calls pertaining to this project to Metro's Contract Administrator, Ben Mendoza, throughout this procurement period. Mr. Mendoza can be reached at (213) 922-7329.

Reserve the Date

Please contact my office if you are interested in attending any of the following meetings, tours or events.

Wilshire Customer Center Grand Re-Opening – January 10, 2007

This event will mark the grand re-opening of the Wilshire Customer Center. The press conference has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. The event will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Wilshire Customer Center located at 5301 Wilshire Boulevard (LA, 90036) and it will consist of remarks, a ribbon cutting, certificate presentation (to those who worked on the center) and a continental breakfast.

Assembly Transportation Committee Chair Pedro Nava Tour and Briefing – January 12, 2007

The California State Assembly's new Transportation Committee Chairman will be visiting Metro on Friday, January 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Chairman Nava will be briefed on Metro's current projects and will participate in a goods movement tour. Invitations will be sent as further details are developed.

Metro/OCTA Joint I-5 Meeting – January 19, 2007

This past September, Metro hosted the first meeting to coordinate transportation issues of critical importance between the Counties of Los Angeles and Orange. The group will meet again on Friday, January 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Long Beach City Hall to continue their work.

Hollywood/Vine Joint Development Groundbreaking – January 23, 2007

This event, *tentatively scheduled* for Tuesday, January 23rd at 3:00 p.m., will commemorate the groundbreaking for construction of the Hollywood/Vine joint development. Details will be provided shortly.

Russian Khabarovsk Region Delegation Tour – January 24, 2007

The International Visitors Council of Los Angeles has requested a

discussion of the accessibility of our bus and rail system for a delegation visiting from Russia's Khabarovsk region. The delegation will be here on Wednesday, January 24th to learn about rights of the disabled in the United States. Chip Hazen, Metro's ADA Compliance Officer, will be leading the group on a tour of Union Station and potentially the Gold Line to Chinatown. California Council of the Blind Vice President Mitch Pomerantz (also City of Los Angeles' ADA Compliance Officer) and a member of Metro's Accessibility Advisory Committee will also be invited to join the delegation. The group will be viewing what we have accomplished through accessibility for all persons with disabilities.

New State Legislators Seminar/Luncheon – January 26, 2007

Chair Gloria Molina will host a luncheon for the Los Angeles Region's freshman state legislators at Gateway Headquarters in the Malibu Conference Room on Friday, January 26th from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tours, speakers and the day's agenda are currently being developed and additional details will be provided as they are determined.

Goods Movement Board Workshop –January 29, 2007

A two and one half hour Board workshop on goods movement issues in the Southern California area has been scheduled for Monday, January 29th from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The agenda for this meeting is currently being drafted but representatives from the Alameda Corridor East and the Ports and many of the area's elected officials are expected to participate.

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