



Metro

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President Bush Releases Fiscal Year 2008 Budget

There is good news for Metro in President Bush's Proposed FY 2008 Budget ([FTA summary attached](#)), which was submitted to Congress earlier today. The budget includes \$80 million in New Starts monies for continued construction of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, which is consistent with the funding schedule outlined in the project's Full Funding Grant Agreement. In addition, the White House also proposed \$16.7 million in "Small Starts" funding to begin construction of the Metro Rapid Bus System Gap Closure project, which is designed to reduce passenger end-to-end trip times along eight new Metro Rapid Corridors. It should be noted that Metro's "Small Starts" proposal is one of only four projects nationwide that was recommended for funding in the President's Budget.

Additionally, the Administration's plan allocates \$175 million for transit security grants (an amount that is identical to that which was appropriated by Congress last year) and \$12 million for intercity bus security grants. Finally, funding for Amtrak has been set at \$800 million in the budget. Amtrak's supporters on Capitol Hill are likely to fight for at least \$1.3 billion for the national rail carrier, which is equal to the amount Congress appropriated for Amtrak in FY 2007.

With the arrival of the President's budget on Capitol Hill, Congressional subcommittees will begin the process of holding extensive hearings on the budget blueprint with an eye towards marking up individual spending bills starting this spring.

Passing of Summer Kempton

I am saddened to report that Will Kempton's youngest daughter, Summer, passed away yesterday. Will and his wife Beverly have asked that any contributions on behalf of the family be directed to the Summer Kempton Memorial Youth Sports Fund at the Folsom Athletic Association (P.O. Box 835, Folsom, CA 95743). I speak on behalf of all Metro's employees when I say that the Kempton Family will be in our thoughts and prayers in the coming days. Additional information will be forwarded as it is made available.

Public Hearings on Proposed Service Modifications

Media Relations staff participated in an interview with Channel 52 today regarding the February public hearings that have been scheduled by Metro's five service sectors on proposed service changes planned for the June 2007 bus "shake-up." Staff explained that the restructuring is an effort to improve the bus system based upon the latest ridership figures. It was also noted that the proposed changes amount to less than one percent of Metro's total service hours. Additionally, the agency will be able to provide better bus service to the community by redeploying buses on the lines with low ridership to those lines that are heavily used. The story is expected to this evening.

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