



Metro

Daily Brief

Wednesday September 7, 2005

20050907-0

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In this issue:

- [Tunnel Panel Being Formed](#)
- [Fox News Helps Evacuees From Louisiana Take Metro](#)
- [Additional Beach and First Day of School Service](#)
- [Update on Contract Bus Services Labor Issue - Day 38](#)

Tunnel Panel Being Formed

A reporter from the LA Weekly inquired today about the status of a panel that will study the safety of tunneling along Wilshire Boulevard in the methane gas zone. If the independent panel determines that it is safe, it could pave the way for the lifting of federal subway tunneling prohibitions in this corridor. Government Relations staff told the reporter that Metro is working with Rep. Henry Waxman's office and APTA to form a 5-member independent panel of experts. The plan is to have the panel do its research in Los Angeles Oct. 17-21. The panel has not yet been formed but both APTA and Rep. Waxman, who will appoint two of the panelists, are making progress in recruiting experts.

Fox News Helps Evacuees From Louisiana Take Metro

A reporter with KTTV Fox News is preparing a story on how their station is helping the evacuees from Louisiana that were recently flown to Los Angeles. Part of the story will focus on showing them how to get around the greater Los Angeles area on the Metro Bus and Metro Rail system. The reporter has purchased a Metro monthly pass for one of the individuals and requested route maps of the bus and rail system. Staff explained to the reporter how individuals can call Metro's 1-800-C-O-M-M-U-T-E for specific route and schedule information or if they have access to a computer can visit <http://www.metro.net> and use Metro's Trip Planner. The story is expected to air tonight.

Additional Beach and First Day of School Service

In anticipation of increased beach travel on Labor Day, the Westside/Central Service Sector put out 16 extra buses on Wilshire Rapid Line 720. There was significant additional demand with standing loads observed continually between 11:00 AM - 11:00 PM. Additional demand was also observed on other beach-bound lines including Line 2 (Sunset Boulevard), Line 4/304 (Santa Monica

Boulevard) and Line 33/333 (Venice Boulevard), however, regular holiday service levels were able to accommodate this additional demand with minimal delays to passengers.

On Tuesday morning September 6, the Westside/Central Service Sector deployed supervisors to Wilshire/Vermont, Wilshire/Western & Wilshire/La Brea to handle increased demand due to the start of school, people returning to work following summer holidays and the impact of higher gasoline prices. Supervisors helped operators with heavy passenger load and provided customer service.

In addition, many of the Wilshire Rapid 720 buses that were due to end at the Federal Building in Westwood were extended to run all the way to Santa Monica. Staff anticipates that higher demand will be present on Wilshire and other lines as additional schools come back into session including the start of Fall classes at UCLA later this month. Sector staff will continue to monitor this demand and look for ways to accommodate it within budget constraints.

Update on Contract Bus Services Labor Issue - Day 38

TCl made 100% on-time rollout this morning. There were six drivers and two teamster representatives on the picket lines. There were no incidents between the TCl drivers and picketers. TCl has indicated that one of the striking First Transit drivers has come to work for TCl and another is being processed to begin driving for them soon.

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