

Daily Brief

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Former Knollenberg Chief of Staff Joins Federal Lobbying Team

In an effort to further enhance Metro's ongoing relationship with key appropriators on Capitol Hill, our federal lobbying team has added a new lobbyist, Paul Welday of Strategic Federal Affairs. Welday will serve as a subcontractor to Van Scoyoc Associates. He replaces Dennis Stephens of Preston Gates, who served as our liaison to Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) when he chaired the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee until earlier this year.

Paul formerly served as Chief of Staff to Congressman Joe Knollenberg (R-MI) before establishing his own lobbying firm. He will assist Metro's current team of contract lobbyists - Van Scoyoc Associates and Cliff Madison Government Affairs - in developing strong ties with Knollenberg. Several months ago, Congressman Knollenberg was selected to serve as the chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, which is responsible for producing annual spending bills to fund federal transportation projects and programs.

Power Outage In Los Angeles

Media Relations received numerous media calls this afternoon following a power outage throughout Los Angeles. Metro Rail trains were delayed about 15 minutes when the outage occurred. Power substations along the various rail alignments were able to "feed" those power substations affected during the outage so that Metro Rail trains could continue operating. Metro Bus service continued during the outage with some delays experienced at intersections that were without power. By the afternoon, DWP was able to restore power to about 90 percent of their customers. DWP says a power cable was inadvertently cut, prompting today's power outage that affected half the city.

South Korean Delegation Visit

Last week, I had the opportunity to give a briefing to four members of the Public Construction and Transportation Bureau from Gyeonggie Province, South Korea. The delegation is researching transit in Los Angeles. They are in the process of implementing and promoting a comprehensive public transportation system for the development of new residential areas in their province of about 30 cities and 10 million residents. I presented our agency's long range and short range transportation goals for Los Angeles County, our funding challenges, and economic joint development and land use opportunities. The delegation also toured our state of the art Bus Operations Control Center.

Update on Contract Bus Services Labor Issue - Day 43

Transportation Concept Inc. (TCI) made 100% on-time rollout on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday morning. There were ten people on the picket lines this morning. There were no incidents between the TCI drivers and picketers over the weekend.

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