

# **Daily Brief**

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# U.S. Senate Passes Homeland Security Appropriations Conference Report for Fiscal Year 2006

The Senate acted today, Friday, October 7, 2005, to approve its Fiscal Year 2006 Homeland Security appropriations bill, a measure that would increase border security spending but, according to critics, cuts first-responder grants and radically changes how they are distributed. According to the Congressional Quarterly, the bill reduces first-responder grants by approximately 28%, while at the same time prioritizing the distribution of first-responder grants based on the risk of a terror attack.

## Congress Includes Funds for Carpooling in Controversial Energy Bill

The U.S. House of Representative today, October 7, 2005, narrowly passed legislation (H.R.3893) that would ease environmental reviews and take other steps to encourage the construction of new or expanded refineries. The measure, which was adopted by a vote of 212 to 210, would also authorize the U.S. Department of Energy to provide grants to state and local agencies for carpool and vanpool programs.

#### Governor vetoes SB 851, Metro Procurement Bill

Last night (Oct 6), Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed SB 851. This bill would have provided clarity to Metro's current procurement statute resulting in reduced costs for the agency. In his veto message, the Governor reasons that this measure would have greatly expanded non-competitive bidding. This issue was

never raised as a concern during the entire legislative process.

### **Mobility 21 Meeting / Metro Orange Line Media Ride**

KABC Channel 7, KCBS/KCAL Channel 2/9, Daily News, KCSN, Metro Networks, City News, Copley News, KFI and KFWB covered this morning's media ride on the Metro Orange Line with Mobility 21 delegates and L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. Joined by L.A. City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel, California Assembly Members Lloyd Levine, Fran Pavley and Paul Koretz and leaders from the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce and Valley Industry and Commerce Association, delegates and media received a guided tour of the line from Valley College to North Hollywood and back. Media were given an opportunity to interview Valley business leaders about the Metro Orange Line's anticipated economic benefits to the San Fernando Valley. Stories are expected to run today and tomorrow.

#### Metro Commute Services Receives National Award

Metro was honored last month at the annual APTA conference with the "Niche" award for its work with local businesses to promote transit. Metro Commute Services works with nearly 800 area employers in the provision of rideshare and transit pass programs for their employees. Metro was selected all of the entries submitted in the 2005 AdWheel Awards competition.

# **Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board Meeting**

The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority is scheduled to meet twice on Wednesday, October 12 at 12:30 p.m. and at 2:00 p.m. at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Board of Supervisors hearing Room 381B. The 12:30 p.m. meeting is closed to the public to conduct general counsel interviews. The 2:00 p.m. meeting will consider five items under general board action. These are general counsel selection, DBE program and negotiated design-build contract DBE goals, staff salary structure, employee benefits plan and office space requirements. A monthly progress report is also agendized under general board discussion items.

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

Next week I will be telecommuting from home and can be reached there. I will be attending the Exposition Construction Authority Board meeting.

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