

Daily Brief

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Daily News Researches Metro Orange Line Ridership Projections

The Daily News is expected to publish an article this weekend on projected ridership for the Metro Orange Line. Staff told a reporter that the EIR projects an average of 22,000 weekday boardings by 2020 but first year ridership should be between 5,000 and 7,000 boardings and will grow over time just as ridership has grown steadily on Metro Rail.

The reporter also looked at early planning estimates for running times on the Metro Orange Line for BRT versus light rail and found that there were similar. The early estimates for 2020, however, were in the range of 26 to 29 minutes compared to about 41 minutes for the current end to end schedules. Those early estimates were aggressive and made before Metro had experience operating the Metro Liners along the alignment.

Suspicious Package Left At Metro Green Line Station

Media Relations received numerous local and national media calls regarding a suspicious package that was left at the Metro Green Line Norwalk Station this morning. LASD responded to the scene and evacuated and closed the station to passengers and train service. Metro Green Line trains were turned back at the Lakewood Station. The LASD Bomb Squad responded to the scene and rendered the package, which was a red backpack harmless. Train service was restored to the Norwalk Station at 1:25 p.m. this afternoon.

APTA Peer Review Panel Documents

The Los Angeles Times today received the briefing documents provided to the APTA Tunnel Peer Review Panel. They are preparing a story regarding the work the panel will do when they convene. The reporter interviewed planning staff

today regarding extending the subway system along Wilshire Boulevard. Staff reported that a Wilshire extension of the subway to Mid-Cities is included in Metro's strategic Long Range Transportation Plan however no funding has been identified. The Board has selected other vital transportation projects as their top priority including the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, Metro Orange Line and the Exposition Light Rail Transit Project.

Mayor Villaraigosa issued a news release today announcing that the panel's work looking at the feasibility of safely tunneling in the Wilshire corridor will begin October 24.

The Daily News also inquired today regarding the work to be done by the panel.

Contracted Services Update

Transportation Concepts Inc. (TCI) sent certified letters to all displaced First Transit employees on Tuesday, October 11. The letters reaffirmed the offer of employment and additionally offered to pay them at the hourly wage as they received at First Transit. The letter also noted that the employment offer was contingent upon the employees having the proper licenses and certifications as well as passing a physical and drug screening test (as required in their Metro contract). Indications are that the letters have been received as the picketing drivers have been distributing copies of their letters to the TCI employees.

CEO Upcoming Meetings and Events

Next week I will be meeting with the European Trade Council, the Community Redevelopment Agency for our Quarterly Joint Project Meeting and the Regionwide CEO's. I will also be meeting separately with Directors' Fasana, Fleming, Knabe, Lowenthal, Parks, and Roberts.

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