

Daily Brief

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U.S. Senate Passes Bill To Provide \$80 Million For Eastside Light Rail Line

The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly passed a \$142 billion spending bill on Thursday that would fund transportation programs and projects and a range of other government operations. The Fiscal Year 2006 appropriations bill included \$80 million for the Eastside Light Rail Line and \$3 million for Metro bus and bus facilities. The bill will now be considered in conference with the House passed transportation appropriations bill, which was adopted on June 30, 2005.

APTA Peer Review on Wilshire Corridor Begins Next Monday

Members of the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Peer Review panel examining tunneling issues related to the Wilshire Corridor will begin their work in Los Angeles on Monday, October 24, 2005. The APTA panel will conclude its work in Los Angeles on October 27th and issue a formal report in November.

Mayor Villaraigosa and Supervisor Yaroslavsky To Ride The Metro Orange Line

Media Relations issued a media advisory this afternoon inviting the news media to join Mayor Villaraigosa and Supervisor Yaroslavsky for a test ride on the Metro Orange Line on Monday, October 24th to survey the San Fernando Valley's newest transit service. The Media ride with the Mayor and Supervisor

Yaroslavsky begins at 10 a.m. from the North Hollywood Station. The news conference starts at 11 a.m. at the Metro Orange Line Valley College Station. Following the test ride, they will join Sheriff Lee Baca and Los Angeles City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel for an important Metro Orange Line safety news conference for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Metro Orange Line Budget Costs And Art Work

The Daily News interviewed Metro construction staff today regarding final budget cost for the construction of the Metro Orange Line, including the Canoga Park Station/Park and Ride lot scheduled to open next year. The story is expected to run this weekend. The Daily News also interviewed staff today regarding Metro Art installed along the new Metro Orange Line. The paper continues to do a series of stories highlighting various aspects of the Metro Orange Line.

Metro Orange Line Driver Safety

KNX News Radio is preparing a story on the Metro Orange Line regarding driver safety issues. Staff reported that bus operators are professionally trained and have many hours of driving experience on the new transit way. Stories may air tonight or tomorrow.

Metro Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting/Expo Community Meetings

Media Relations issued a news release today announcing the upcoming Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting set for Wednesday, Oct. 26. In addition, Media Relations issued a news release today announcing three upcoming community open houses planned for early November along the Exposition Light Rail Project corridor.

Orange County to Host Go California Workshop

The Orange County Transportation Authority will be hosting a workshop on the Governor's Go California initiative next Tuesday, October 25 at OCTA's headquarters. The workshop will be followed by a tour of the State Route 22 project, which is using the design build contracting method. Metro Government Relations staff will be monitoring the workshop. Attached are the invite letter, meeting agenda, SR22 tour invitation and the schedule of regional workshops.

CEO Upcoming Meetings and Events

Next week I will be meeting separately with Supervisors' Antonovich, Burke, Molina, and Yaroslavsky. In addition, I will be touring the Eastside construction alignment; meeting with a small business group to discuss transportation issues; and attending the VIP event for the Metro Orange Line opening.

Of Note

Ten years ago, on October 22, 1995, the Patsaouras Bus Plaza and East Portal of the Union Station Gateway headquarters project officially opened to bus and pedestrian traffic.

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