

Daily Brief

CEO Roger Snoble

In this issue:

- Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee Acts on Wilshire Bus Lane
- Los Angeles City Council Joint Public Safety and Transportation Committee Receives Metro Orange Line Safety Recommendations
- <u>CEO Upcoming Meetings and Events</u>

Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee Acts on Wilshire Bus Lane

Yesterday, the Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee heard Councilmembers Bill Rosendahl and Wendy Greuel's motion that was continued from the previous meeting. The motion recommended the suspension of the Wilshire Bus Lane between Federal Avenue and Centinela Avenue until other jurisdictions have agreed to implement their portion of the project from Downtown Los Angeles to Downtown Santa Monica. The committee approved the removal of the bus lane from the two blocks between Barrington Avenue and Federal Avenue with the following stipulations: (1) the two blocks between Barrington Avenue and Federal Avenue will be added back when Los Angeles County completes the bus lane through the Veterans Administration property and (2) there would be no further reduction of the existing bus lane. The committee also adopted a position supporting completion of the entire Wilshire Boulevard. bus lane from Western Avenue to the City of Santa Monica. Finally, the committee specified that on street, peak-period parking would not be restored on Wilshire Boulevard. The committee action will now be referred to the full City Council for approval although no date is yet set. The Transportation Committee requested a report back in 30 days.

Los Angeles City Council Joint Public Safety and Transportation Committee Receives Metro Orange Line Safety Recommendations

Yesterday, the joint meeting of the Los Angeles City Council Public Safety and Transportation Committees met to discuss a motion by Councilmembers Wendy Greuel, Alex Padilla, Jack Weiss, Dennis Zine and Tom LaBonge requesting that Metro, LADOT, LAPD and LASD report on the preliminary findings from the three Metro Orange Line traffic accidents and present recommendations regarding the development and implementation of a "Virtual Railroad Crossing Warning System" for Metro Orange Line intersections.

Metro San Fernando Sector General Manager Richard Hunt presented the Metro Orange Line Safety Task Force's recommendations. Safety measures already implemented include signal timing modifications, lowering "No Right Turn" signs for enhanced visibility and introducing green "up arrow" indicators to reinforce no turning movements. Near term measures include added intersection signage and educational DVDs for motorists. Task Force recommendations for mid-term implementation include LED "Bus" signs at intersections for vehicles and pedestrians, photo enforcement equipment at high risk intersections and strobe lights for enhance bus visibility. The task force is also considering other safety measures. Transportation Committee Chair Greuel directed the Department of Transportation (LADOT) and Metro to return with a status report in 30 days.

CEO Upcoming Meetings and Events

Next week I will be attending the 4th Annual Mobility 21 Summit in Long Beach. I will also be meeting with Bob Toone, City Manager for the City of Palmdale and meeting separately with Mayor Villaraigosa, Directors Fleming, Lowenthal, Knabe, Fasana, and O'Connor.

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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority 1 Gateway Plaza Los Angeles, California 90012-2952 Phone: 213-922-6888 Fax: 213-922-7447