



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble

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### **Metro Orange Line Safety**

A Los Angeles Times editorial writer and a KFI radio reporter interviewed Metro Media Relations staff about the Metro Orange Line accidents including yesterday's incident. While noting that motorists ran red lights in all six accidents, staff emphasized that Metro and its safety partners at the city and law enforcement will continue making adjustments to make the Metro Orange Line even safer. The emphasis is on engineering, enforcement and education. The latest improvement will be photo enforcement cameras that could be installed early next year at 12 key intersections to record and cite motorists going through red lights. In yesterday's minor accident, the driver of a SUV with allegedly faulty brakes ran a red light while talking on a cell phone according to witnesses.

### **Meeting with State Senator Alan Lowenthal**

My meeting with State Senator Alan Lowenthal, Chair of the Senate Transportation & Housing committee, was both informative and productive. Key issues such as the I-710 project, Proposition 42, SB 1024 and state funding formulae were discussed. Senator Lowenthal assured me that he will push for additional funding for projects in the Southern California region and expressed his desire to work closely with Metro in the future.

### **Mobility 21's Executive Committee**

Mobility 21's Executive Committee met Wednesday, December 7, at the LA Chamber. Staff from the offices of Senator Barbara Boxer and Congressman Gary Miller were in attendance, as were representatives of SCAG and the SGV Economic Partnership. Ron Gastelum, Executive Vice President of the LA Chamber, chaired the Executive Committee meeting and urged the members to

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build upon the success of the summit through regional coalition building. The major focus of the meeting was a recap of the 4th Annual Mobility 21 Summit held on November 14 at the Long Beach Convention Center. This year's summit drew 534 participants, the largest attendance ever. Feedback regarding the keynote speaker, Leon Panetta, and the plenary and breakout sessions was extremely positive.

The Executive Committee agreed that the resolutions produced at the summit will be further refined into specific requests for support from regional stakeholders and state and federal legislators. It was also recommended that more effort be made to schedule the summit on a date that would encourage maximum participation by elected officials and/or their senior staff, perhaps when legislative agendas are least critical or when the legislature is out of session.

### **Metro Express Bus Line 577X Media Event**

Metro Gateway Cities will celebrate the introduction of a new express bus line linking the cities of Long Beach, Norwalk and El Monte at a special grand opening ceremony on Friday, December 16 at 10 am. The event will be held at the Long Beach Veterans Administration Medical Center, located at 5901 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The new Express Bus Line 577X will begin frequent weekday operation on Monday, December 19, with service between El Monte and Long Beach via the I-10 and I-605 Freeways. The line will feature only four stops: the El Monte Bus station, the Metro Green Line Norwalk Station, Cal State Long Beach and the VA Medical Center in Long Beach. The 577X will weekday service every 20 minutes during peak periods and every 30 minutes during the off-peak.

### **Passing of Mary Alice Freeman Mitchell**

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Mary Alice Freeman Mitchell, beloved wife of Lonnie Mitchell our Executive Officer of Procurement. Alice passed away November 23rd after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was 58. Alice and Lonnie shared in 35 years of marriage.

Alice was born in Bremerton, Washington and raised in Seattle. Lonnie and Alice met during their first year at Washington State University in 1965. They married in 1970, after Lonnie completed his initial Navy training that would launch a 30-year naval career. Alice put her own career plans on hold and became a dedicated, supportive Navy Wife and Mother.

In addition to Lonnie, Alice leaves behind two daughters, Lacy Mitchell of Los Angeles, and Allison Mitchell Everett of Bremerton, and two granddaughters, Mikayla and Charis Everett of Bremerton. Three brothers and one sister, all of who reside in the Seattle area, survive her.

Memorial services are being held December 16th in Seattle, following cremation

here in Los Angeles. There will be no service here in Los Angeles.

**Of Note:**

On this day in 1983, SCRTD approved the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Metro Rail Subway Project, preparing the way for the project's 1986 groundbreaking. The EIR had to be revisited after a methane gas incident near the corner of Fairfax and 3rd street led to the identification of a methane gas risk zone tied to the project's funding.

During the construction of the initial 4.4-mile downtown segment, the Metro Rail project's 18.6-mile route west on Wilshire, north on Fairfax to Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley, was rerouted to head north on Vermont Avenue instead. A final EIR for the new route was issued in 1989 which ended Metro Rail's extension through the Wilshire corridor at Western Avenue until some future point when newer technologies and additional study could address methane gas safety concerns.

The Transportation Commission created preliminary station plans for Wilshire Boulevard in 1990 when the project was briefly called the "Metro Orange Line"; station sites included Crenshaw, La Brea, Fairfax, La Cienga, Beverly Drive, Century City and Westwood. Routes south (Pico) and north (Santa Monica Blvd) of Wilshire were also considered.

Last month, a panel of experts chosen by APTA and Congressman Henry Waxman preliminarily concluded "without any objection" that it would be safe to build a subway beneath Wilshire Boulevard beyond Western Avenue.

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