

Daily Brief

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Exposition Light Rail Transit Project

The Daily News inquired today regarding Board action expected next week to certify the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report FEIS/FEIR for the project. Staff was interviewed regarding the scope of the project and the Locally Preferred Alternative alignment recommended for approval at the December 15 Board meeting. A story on the Exposition Light Rail project is expected to run this weekend.

Senate Transportation and Housing Committee to Hold a Hearing on Infrastructure Bonds

The Senate Transportation and Housing Committee will hold a hearing on a proposed state infrastructure bond (SB 1024) on Tuesday, December 13, 2005. The hearing will be held at the Southern California Association of Governments offices 818 W. Seventh St, Los Angeles, and will begin at 9:30. The Director Katz will be speaking on behalf of Metro. Attached is the preliminary agenda for the hearing.

APTA Panel Issues Final Report

The American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Peer Review panel that examined the public safety issues related to tunneling along the Wilshire Corridor has issued its final report. The document reflects the panel's unanimous conclusion that it is possible to both safely tunnel and safely operate a subway along the Wilshire Corridor. A copy of the final report will be issued to all Board members.

Regional CEO Monthly Meeting

The Regional CEO's met today to discuss the regional goods movement efforts which included the possibility of implementing mutual agreements to develop goods movement programs and projects, implementation of SAFETEA-LU policies in SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan and the annual statewide California Reception in Washington DC. The California Reception, which will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, occurs during the annual APTA Legislative Conference and allows transportation agencies to share their needs with members of California's Congressional Delegation.

Sanbag Chooses Its New Director

San Bernardino County's transportation agency, announced Wednesday's the appointment of Mark A. "Tony" Grasso as their new executive director for the San Bernardino Associated Governments (Sanbag). Sanbag is building the expanded 210 Freeway and other high-profile projects. Grasso will replace long time director, Norm King. King has been appointed as the first director of the soon-to-be created University Transportation Center at Cal State San Bernardino. The center will do research and collect data about transportation issues.

Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events

Next week I will be meeting separately with Supervisors Antonovich, Burke and Yaroslavsky, Mayor Villaraigosa; Ron Gastelum from the L.A. Chamber of Commerce; and Bruce Rothman of Core Group. In addition, I will be attending the Municipal Operators General Managers Meeting; the Tunnel Boring Machine press event, the Metro Rapid 757 press event; and will be interviewed by a reporter from the Governing Magazine.

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