

Daily Brief

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Special Master Order On Service Curtailments

The Daily News, Los Angeles Times and City News Service today were given the latest ruling by the Special Master regarding the Consent Decree that was issued late last Friday. The latest decision concerns the BRU's objection to service changes implemented on 13 bus lines over the period of June 2003 through June 2005. The Special Master's order approves almost all of the service changes made by Metro during that time frame but does direct the reinstatement of some service to a few lines. Stories may appear in the newspapers tomorrow.

Western Metro Rapid Line 757 Debuts Sunday December 18

Media Relations issued a news release today announcing a new, high-capacity Metro Rapid Line 757 opening on Western Avenue beginning Sunday, December 18. Metro Rapid Line 757 will span approximately 13 miles and connect with two Metro Rail lines and several Metro Rapid lines. Service will operate seven days a week from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Buses will operate approximately every nine minutes during peak periods, and every 12 minutes during off-peak times. The service also will mark the very first deployment of red-colored, 60-foot articulated buses on a Metro Rapid Line. Silver-colored versions of this bus were first seen on the San Fernando Valley's Metro Orange Line, which opened October 29. Metro's articulated buses will also be deployed on Metro Rapid Line 754, which runs along Vermont Avenue.

A press event is planned for Friday, December 16 at 9 a.m. at Western and Slauson with LA City Councilman and Metro Board Member Bernard Parks to promote the opening of the new Metro Western Rapid line.

Los Angeles City Council Item on Wilshire Bus Lane

Tomorrow, Tuesday December 13, the Los Angeles City Council will consider its Transportation Committee's report on the Wilshire Blvd. peak-period bus lanes between Federal Avenue and Centinela Avenue. The committee report would direct LADOT to defer the operation of the peak period bus-only lanes for the two block segment between Federal Avenue and Barrington Avenue, remove the bus-only lanes and restore Wilshire Boulevard to its previous condition in this segment; and coordinate the reinstallation of the two blocks of the peak period bus-only lanes when Metro is ready to extend the bus-only lane easterly towards the 405 Freeway.

Following is a link to the entire City Council agenda, which includes the entire nine-part recommendation for Item # 37, the Wilshire Bus Lane. http://lacity.org/clk/councilagendas/clkcouncilagendas334189_12132005.pdf

Eastside Extension Tunnel Boring Machine Media Event

This Thursday morning December 15 at 8 a.m. construction crews will lower segments of two tunnel boring machines into a Metro Rail station box at Mariachi Plaza located at First and Boyle Streets in East Los Angeles. The machines will carve out twin 1.7-mile tunnels under Boyle Heights as part of the six-mile eastside extension of the Metro Gold Line. As part of the event, the media will also be given an underground tour.

I-5/Highway 126 Improved Interchange Dedication Ceremony

Caltrans has scheduled a dedication ceremony marking the completion of the improved Interstate 5 and Highway 126 Interchange for this Wednesday December 14 at 10 a.m. at the Community Bank parking lot at 28494 Westinghouse Place in Valencia. Improvements to the interchange included widening, reconstruction and other upgrades.

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