Daily Brief

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Crenshaw Boulevard Committee

This past Wednesday, Metro staff attended the Crenshaw Boulevard Committee hosted by City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works Commissioner Valerie Shaw. The Committee's purpose is to ensure that improvements along Crenshaw are coordinated among the various City departments and agencies. In addition to LADOT, Bureau of Street Services, Public Works, Fire Department, Housing Department, and Councilmember Wesson's office, other agencies represented included Caltrans, Metro and Congresswoman Watson's office. Each agency outlined their projects along the Boulevard. Metro staff informed the group of the Crenshaw Corridor Phase 1 Transit Enhancement study currently being conducted. Through the Short Range Transportation Plan adopted in 2003, the Board reserved funding to implement enhancements to the Crenshaw Metro Rapid Service. Enhancements could include dedicated lanes, bus shelters, pedestrian improvements, etc. Future Committee meetings will occur on a quarterly basis.

Metro Rapid 757 Line Media Event

La Opinion, KRCA Channel 62, L.A. City View Channel 35, KBC Channel 44, and KTAN Korean-Language TV covered this morning's media event with L.A. City Councilmember Bernard Parks to announce new Metro Rapid Line 757, which will run along Western Avenue and connect to both branches of the Metro Red Line and the Metro Green Line. The Western and Vermont Metro Rapid Lines will be the first to use new 60-foot Metro Liner buses on regular city streets. Service begins Sunday, with free rides on Monday on Line 757.

New Express Bus 577X Kick Off Ceremony

Several media outlets including KTTV and the Chinese Daily News attended today's grand opening ceremony to celebrate Metro's newest express bus line 577X, which will begin service on Monday, December 19 and offer free rides for two days. Supervisor Don Knabe and Director Bonnie Lowenthal joined Gateway Sector General Manager Alex Clifford and Artesia Mayor Larry Nelson for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Long Beach Veterans Affairs healthcare center in Long Beach.

Metro Service Changes Effective December 18

The Los Angeles Times and the Daily Breeze inquired today regarding service changes Metro is making effective this Sunday, December 18. Media Relations issued a news release two weeks ago that outlines the number of service enhancements taking place including the start of new Metro Express Service Line 577X from Long Beach to El Monte, the implementation of a new Metro Rapid Line 757 on Western Avenue and the start of four new limited stop lines. Stories may appear over the weekend on the changes.

Los Angeles Magazine Honors Metro

"Buzzcuts", Los Angeles Magazine's clever-sassy section on celebrities, fashion, and hip things, is featuring the online Metro Store and it's "instant collectible" Metro posters in their January 2006 issue. This is the second time that the section has honored Metro. A previous issue featured Metro Manners, the popular trading cards on transit etiquette commissioned by Metro Art.

Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events

Next week I will be meeting with Doug Carter of Booz Allen; and Bill Coryell of NABI, and attending the Metro Gold Line Media Event with the Tournament of Roses Queen and her court; and the FTA Quarterly Review Meeting.

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