



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble

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### Jim Ryan (FTA) Visit to Metro

Jim Ryan, Chief, Methods Division, Office of Planning and Environment, from FTA's Washington D.C. office visited Metro yesterday, January 11th, for a fact-finding visit regarding Metro's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) program. Mr. Ryan is working on developing the federal guidelines for the new Small Starts Program and was interested in Metro's successful BRT projects. In the morning, Mr. Ryan was given a tour of the Metro Gold Line to Pasadena and the Metro Orange Line. I joined Mr. Ryan for lunch to discuss Metro's Orange Line and Metro Rapid programs, and the direction of future Small Starts guidance for BRT projects. In the afternoon, Mr. Ryan was given briefings on the development and implementation of the Metro Rapid program and the Metro Orange Line. He expressed interest in potentially partnering with Metro regarding various survey and data analysis activities that could assist FTA in defining what makes a successful BRT project for the Small Starts Program guidelines.

### APTA Legislative Conference

APTA's 2006 Legislative Conference is just around the corner. In the past, several Board members and Board staff have attended. This year's conference is scheduled for March 5-7 at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC.

Conference registration can be done online at [www.apta.com](http://www.apta.com).

### State Budget Transportation Impacts

The Los Angeles Times interviewed staff today regarding the proposed state budget and what impacts it will have on transportation project in Los Angeles County and the Antelope Valley. The reporters wanted to know how Metro goes about selecting area freeway projects for possible funding. The story may

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appear tomorrow.

## **Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board Meeting Actions**

The Exposition Metro Line Authority Construction Board met Thursday, January 12 and approved the items posted on the agenda. These include staff's recommendation to approve the project budget and the staffing plan for fiscal year 2006, the personnel policy and employment manual, the employee pension and deferred compensation plan, and amendments to the administrative code. The Board also received a monthly project status update. Planned January activities include evaluating the design build proposals received on January 5, obtain FTA issuance of Record of Decision and review of Project Management Plan, continue the Flower Street design development and negotiate a Master Cooperative Agreement with Metro.

### **Of Note**

On this date in 1962, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (1951-1964) held a press event and ground breaking ceremony for Wilshire subway portion of its proposed Backbone Route (El Monte to Century City). At the corner of Broadway and 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Governor Pat Brown addressed a gathering of officials of state, county and city officials and proclaimed that "The plan for the backbone route is too sound and too necessary to remain just a plan, lets start drilling!" while news photographers clicked and television cameras filmed. The project, however, proved to be a false start. No local, state or federal funding mechanisms for the construction of public transit systems yet existed. LAMTA had hoped to get some federal funding for civil defense and build subway stations that would also serve as fallout shelters.

Coincidentally, on this same date in 1984, the Southern California Rapid Transit District (1964-1993) officially applied for federal funds to construct the Metro Rail subway system. Groundbreaking occurred 20 months later on September 29th, 1986 with its first segment opening to passengers in 1993.

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