



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble

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### LA City Council Hears APTA Peer Review Report

The Los Angeles City Council met today and received a brief report by Rick Thorpe on the APTA Peer Review Panel's review of Wilshire Corridor tunneling. (Rick and Dr. Dan Eisenstein had also made a more extensive presentation at last week's Transportation Committee meeting.) Rick summarized the panel's findings that with new technologies and gas monitoring systems now available, it is not only safe to tunnel under Wilshire Blvd., but also safe to operate. Several Councilmembers spoke at today's Council meeting in support of the Panel's findings and the need to both repeal the federal prohibition on funding and expand rail service in Los Angeles County.

### Business Journal Transportation Impact Story

The Los Angeles Business Journal is preparing a story regarding the Governor's proposed state budget and his infrastructure plans. The article will focus on various engineering firms in the County that are gearing up for possible work that will be generated by transportation projects should funding become available. The reporter interviewed Metro staff today regarding what types of projects may be impacted by the increase in funding. Staff reported that Metro is currently updating its Long Range Transportation Plan that will take into consideration the elevation of state funding which should be completed in June. Staff also noted that we expect to get more funding for the Exposition Line in the short term and more funding for various traffic relief projects such as carpool lanes in the long term. The story is expected to run next week.

### Transit Ridership Shows Strong Gains

APTA today issued a news release indicating that transit ridership showed increases in all modes in the 2005 third quarter. The news release noted that even with the decline in gas prices in November, strong ridership trends

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continues as more than 25 transit agencies nationwide showed double-digit increases. Media Relations staff assisted various news outlets this morning who reported on the story, noting Metro ridership increases as part of their report. Additional stories are expected throughout the day and evening.

### **President Bush Nominates Simpson to Serve as FTA Administrator**

President George W. Bush announced yesterday his intention to nominate James S. Simpson, of New York, to be Federal Transit Administrator at the U.S. Department of Transportation. Mr. Simpson is currently Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Victory Worldwide Transportation. Earlier in his career, Mr. Simpson served as a Commissioner of the New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The post of FTA Administrator was left vacant last year when Jenna Dorn left that job after being nominated by President Bush to serve on the Governing Body of the World Bank.

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