



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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**CEO Roger Snoble**

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## **USDOT Inspector General Announces Resignation**

Kenneth M. Mead, the highly-regarded Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Transportation, announced his resignation, effective February 11, 2006. Mead was appointed Inspector General by President Clinton in 1997 and served two administrations. In the spring of 2004, several Board members and I had an opportunity to meet with Mead in Washington to discuss the Eastside FFGA. We had a very constructive dialogue, and he provided excellent advice on how to make the best case for Eastside before Congress. As part of his responsibilities, Mead undertook a comprehensive evaluation of FTA's New Starts program and praised the evaluation process within the New Starts program as being one of the more rigorous and systematic among federal grant programs.

## **Legislative Analyst's Office Issues Report on SAFETEA-LU**

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) in Sacramento released a 20-page report entitled "*Funding for Transportation: What the New Federal Act Means for California.*" The report provides an overview of the major provisions of SAFETEA-LU, highlights how they differ from TEA-21, and discusses the major implications for California. It notes that the transit provisions of SAFETEA-LU are generally favorable to California. In addition, the LAO also called attention to the newly-created "Small Starts" program as a potential source of funding for smaller transit projects such as the Orange Line, which was specifically cited in the report. A copy of the report is attached.

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