



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

Thursday February 2, 2006

20060202-0-#

CEO Roger Snoble

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## Infrastructure Bond Update

Yesterday, the Assembly Transportation Committee conducted a public hearing that discussed various elements of the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan. The hearing was conducted in a much more informal manner than previous hearings. The committee expressed concerns with the proposed use of design build contracting.

On Tuesday, February 7, the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee will conduct a hearing to discuss the project selection process for the Strategic Growth Plan. Most transportation agencies have expressed concerns that the Strategic Growth Plan shifts control on project selection to the State and more specifically the Administration. The Committee has requested Metro representatives to participate in a panel that would discuss the existing project selection processes. Staff proposes that the bond should incorporate the existing process where local agencies select projects.

Additionally, Senator Perata distributed the attached letter at today's meeting of the California Transportation Commission. The letter captures the concerns that have arisen with respect to the Strategic Growth Plan.

## California Transportation Commission Meeting

Today, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated \$14M in TCRP money as reimbursement for local money Metro spent on preliminary engineering and environmental work for Exposition Phase I Project.

We had one more allocation request of \$208.1M in TCRP funds for final design and construction of Exposition Phase I on the CTC agenda today. However, we

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have been informed that it will be delayed one month while the CTC verifies that there is sufficient funding based on the Governor's budget. We will keep you informed as we receive information.

### **SCAG Consensus Trip to Washington, DC & Metro Briefing**

I will be participating in the 2006 SCAG Consensus Trip that will be held in Washington D.C. next week. This is an opportunity for Southern California to send a message of consensus to key Members of Congress on our transportation priorities and to layout the framework for goods movement issues in our region. The SCAG agenda includes a number of meetings with senior aides for members of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and an opportunity to meet with other federal transportation leaders, such as Federal Transit Administration Administrator Sandra Bushue. Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite Burke will also be participating in this trip.

While in Washington, DC, I will be participating in a briefing hosted by Metro for Chiefs of Staff and transportation legislative aides for members of the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation (Tuesday, February 7, 2006). At this briefing, we will share our 2006 legislative agenda, which was approved by the Board last month, and provide updates on our current and planned major capital projects. Information regarding Metro's efforts to enhance the security of our rail and bus systems will also be provided to the congressional aides.

### **House Republicans Select New Majority Leader**

House Republicans moved today to elect Representative John A. Boehner of Ohio as their new majority leader. Boehner beat out interim Majority Leader Roy Blunt of Missouri on the second ballot, 122-109. First elected to Congress in 1990, Boehner had most recently served as chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee, where he helped pass President Bush's signature No Child Left Behind Act into law.

Boehner is known for his vigorous opposition to the practice of earmarking federal transportation dollars for specific projects. When Congress passed the federal transportation reauthorization bill last year, it included a record 10,656 projects - worth \$23 billion. Of the 10,656 projects listed in the bill, none were in Ohio's 8th Congressional District which Boehner represents.

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

The Exposition Metro Line Authority Construction Board met Thursday, February 2 and approved the items posted on the agenda. These included selecting Rick Thorpe as the permanent Chief Executive Officer, authorizing the CEO to negotiate and submit for Board approval a Design-Build Contract and adopting a resolution on State Disability Insurance. The Board received and filed a report

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on forming Construction Board committees and received a monthly status update.

### **Dedication Ceremony Planned For New El Monte Division 9 Building**

Media Relations issued a news release today inviting the media to attend tomorrow's groundbreaking ceremonies planned for the start of construction of a new state-of-the-art Metro Bus Operations Building in El Monte. Jack Gabig, Metro San Gabriel Valley Service Sector General Manager, will join members of the Sector Governance Council in a ceremony marking the beginning of construction of a new building. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m.

In addition to being the main building for bus operators and other employees at Division 9, the building will also serve as the new home of the San Gabriel Valley Sector administrative office, and will include a community room for conducting meetings.

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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
1 Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, California 90012-2952  
Phone: 213-922-6888  
Fax: 213-922-7447

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