



Metro

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Bush Administration Releases Fiscal Year 2007 Budget - Includes \$100 Million for Eastside Rail

The Bush Administration released its Fiscal Year 2007 (FY07) Budget earlier today. The bill includes over \$65 billion for the U.S. Department of Transportation. I had an opportunity to attend U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta's budget briefing in Washington, DC today and was pleased to learn that the President's Budget includes \$100 million in New Starts funding for Metro's Eastside Light Rail Line. The Budget only included a total of \$4 million more for rail New Starts projects in California, two of those projects are in San Diego and one is in San Francisco.

The Budget provides \$100 million for the new Small Starts project authorized last year under the new surface transportation reauthorization bill, which is half the amount Congress allocated for the program. It is anticipated that Members of Congress will seek to earmark Small Starts funds for specific projects. Overall highway funding is set at \$39.8 billion for Fiscal Year 2007. The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), which Metro uses for our rail and bus operations, is funded at \$2.2 billion in the President's Budget.

The Los Angeles Times may publish a short article tomorrow noting that the Bush Administration in its FY07 budget has proposed \$100 million in construction funding for the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. This allocation is part of the federal full funding grant agreement for the project. The Times was told that Congress must approve the FY07 budget including transportation appropriations. Those budget deliberations will start in Spring.

Mobility 21 Coalition Meeting Set For February 10

Media Relations distributed a news release this afternoon announcing that the

next Mobility 21 meeting is set for February 10 where coalition members will discuss Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's \$222 billion infrastructure proposal. www.metro.net/press/2006/02_February/metro_017.htm. The release notes that California and Los Angeles city officials as well as transportation leaders will meet Friday, February 10 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the 1st floor conference room of the Caltrans District 7 Administration Building, 100 S. Main St. in downtown Los Angeles. Scheduled to attend are California Senator and President Pro Tem Don Perata, Los Angeles City Council Member Wendy Greuel, California Business, Transportation and Housing Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak and U.S. Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR).

Metro Customer Satisfaction Surveys

Media Relations issued a news release today on the release of two surveys, one scanning customer satisfaction throughout the Metro system and the other focusing on the new Metro Orange Line that shows that high quality of basic services is what riders want and appreciate.

www.metro.net/press/2006/02_February/metro_018.htm

In one of the largest customer satisfaction surveys of its kind (polling 18,000 riders) Metro trains and buses received high marks for innovation, as well as for quality of essential services. Highlights include a vast majority of our customers (80 percent) now find a seat versus 69 percent just three years ago. Where safety is concerned, customers said they feel safe at bus stops (80 percent) and when riding the system (87 percent). And 79 percent said drivers are courteous. Overall, more than 4 out of 5 customers think the Metro image is improving (85 percent) and see a continued trend toward better service (83 percent).

On the Metro Orange Line survey, more that 90 percent of respondents indicated that they normally have a seat for their trip and that they like the Metro Liner buses and the pre-paid boarding system. The Daily News ran a story in its Sunday paper on the results of the new Metro Orange Line customer survey, which documented high rider satisfaction with the new San Fernando Valley service. The article reported that the line is attracting a large number of riders who are new to public transit, and that most are enjoying a faster commute. The newspaper's own rider interviews underscored survey findings. To review survey results, view attached PDF document included in this brief.

LA City Council Transportation Committee Agenda

This Wednesday's Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee meeting includes two Metro related items. City staff will report on Metro Orange Line safety issues as well as developing a temporary parking lot for transit riders at the southwest corner of Chandler and Lankershim Boulevards near the Metro Red Line Red Line Station.

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