



Metro

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U.S. Secretary of Transportation Discusses Eastside Project at Press Conference

Yesterday, Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta held a press conference in Washington, D.C. to unveil the Bush Administration's plan to provide \$1.5 billion in Fiscal Year 2007 to fund 23 major rail projects across the nation. Secretary Mineta noted that the "projects were selected to receive funding after passing FTA's rigorous test. Strong ridership and solid community support were a must before taxpayer dollars could be spent." As part of his remarks Secretary Mineta referenced the Metro Gold Line Eastside Light Rail Line, which entered the construction phase last year. "In Los Angeles, \$100 million will go to build a light rail extension connecting downtown L.A. with the Eastside. The Metro Gold [Line] extension is expected to carry 23,000 riders a day by 2020," Mineta commented. The full text of Secretary Mineta's remarks are available at: www.dot.gov/affairs/minetasp020706.htm.

Metro Gold Line Express Service Media Event

Media Relations issued a Media Advisory today inviting news outlets to attend tomorrow's press event as local officials try out new Metro Gold Line Express Service, set to begin on February 13. Mayor Villaraigosa, Supervisor Antonovich, Board Members John Fasana and David Fleming and I will board the Metro Gold Line to preview the new Express Service. A press conference is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. tomorrow at the Metro Gold Line south side platform at Union Station. The train is scheduled to leave the station at 9:15 a.m. The Metro Gold Line Express trains will cut 15 percent off commute times between Pasadena and downtown Los Angeles, a trip that will now be possible in under a half hour.

LA City Council Transportation Committee Actions

Today, the Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee received reports from their staff 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 North Hollywood Station. Metro staff reported that there were no accidents on the Metro Orange Line Rapidway in January. Near misses reported by operators, however, increased in January and so Metro is continuing to operate the Metro Liners at reduced speed through intersections. One minor accident occurred on February 2 at a utility road intersection on the Rapidway when an SUV ran a red light and the vehicles collided. In addition, Metro staff reported that it is our goal to complete photo enforcement camera installation at 12 Metro Orange Line intersections by this June.

Metro and City staff presented the status of the feasibility of constructing a temporary parking lot in North Hollywood. The cost estimate for a temporary parking lot with minimal improvements is around \$700,000. Metro staff stressed the importance of a financial contribution from the City and will continue to work with City staff to refine scope and identify financial commitments.

Chinese Delegation Visit

Metro Central Area Team Director Diego Cardoso conducted a tour and presentation on transportation planning and transit oriented development along the Metro Gold Line. The tour was given to a group of public agency members from Xicheng District in Beijing, China. Michael Woo who currently teaches at USC Urban Planning and is an expert on Transportation Planning in China coordinated the tour. The Chinese Delegation is also meeting with other City of Los Angeles public agencies to learn about land use development process and building and safety inspections.

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