



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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**CEO Roger Snoble**

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## **Over \$500 Million in State Funding Commitments Pending for Exposition Light Rail Transit Project**

Metro is requesting that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) program \$315 million in Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funds for the Exposition Light Rail Transit (LRT) project as part of the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on April 27, 2006. In addition, the Governor's Budget proposal to fully fund the Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) using Proposition 42 sales tax on gas funds gives Metro an opportunity to secure another \$208 million in State funds for the Exposition LRT project as early as March 16, 2006.

The Board of Directors can aid our efforts to secure a total of \$523 million in State funds for Exposition LRT by mentioning upcoming CTC actions in contacts with State elected and administration officials. In addition, we are asking members of the Board to appear before the CTC itself at a its South County State TIP Hearing scheduled for March 9, 2006 at 10:00 AM in the Metro Boardroom.

The CTC's approval of the State's RIP and TCRP funds would enable Los Angeles County to move forward with other transportation capital improvements because local and federal funds now targeted for the Exposition LRT project can be redirected to other projects.

## **Labor Update: Unions agree to participate in “interest based” workshops**

ATU, UTU and TCU have each agreed to participate in the 2-day “interest based negotiations” workshops. The workshops start next week and will be facilitated by Rhonda Hilyer, the president and founder of Agreement Dynamics. The purpose of the workshops is to outline the process for negotiations, help identify

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interests and provide a forum for the negotiating teams to become acquainted with one another. ATU's workshop is scheduled for February 16 and 17; TCU - February 22 and 23; and UTU - February 27 and 28. Our unions' commitment this effort is an encouraging sign as we begin our negotiation process.

### **Metro Gold Line Express Service Set to Roll**

Numerous media outlets attended today's press event to preview the Metro Gold Line Express Service scheduled to go into place on Monday, February 13. The express trains scheduled to begin operating next week will cut 15 percent off commute times between Pasadena and downtown Los Angeles. The media joined Mayor Villaraigosa, Supervisor Antonovich, Councilman Ed Reyes and Board Members David Fleming and John Fasana for a test ride on board the Metro Gold Line. Media attending the event included CNN, LA Times, La Opinion, KABC-TV, KTTV, KSCI 18, Metro Networks, KFWB, Asia Pacific News, Sing Tao Daily, Chinese Daily News and the China Press.

### **Westside Extension of the Metro Red Line Report**

The Daily News interviewed planning staff today regarding a report that is planned to go before next week's Planning and Programming Committee on the costs and timeframe of constructing a Westside extension of the Metro Red Line subway. The report notes that an extension all the way to Santa Monica from Wilshire/Western would cost approximately \$4.8 billion. An extension to the vicinity of Westwood/I-405 Freeway would be about \$3.2 billion. The report notes that no funding has been identified but staff will evaluate the Metro Red Line Westside Extension as part of the current Long Range Transportation Plan update process.

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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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