



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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## Infrastructure Bond Update

As reported in yesterday's Daily Brief, the Infrastructure Bond Conference Committee will meet on Thursday March 2, 2006 and receive the Majority report of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee (attached). Generally, the report issues a series of recommendations that are consistent with those advocated by Metro. The report closely tracks the bond proposal offered by Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata. Key findings of the report include the following:

- Funding priorities should be consistent with those in SB 1024.
  - The project selection process should resemble the bottoms-up process that guides the State Transportation Improvement Program. The California Transportation Commission should be required to develop performance measures and approve projects as nominated by local agencies in accordance with these performance measures. (Staff continues to review this recommendation, as the role of local agencies will need further clarification.)
  - Goods movement priorities should be based on the ability to move cargo to rail. Priority should be given to projects that limit emissions. A project selection process similar to the above, with performance measures specific to goods movement, would be incorporated.
  - A comprehensive plan to increase the rail transit program by allocating \$1 billion through a formula known as PRISM. Although this formula has been recommended by Metrolink, Los Angeles County's share is limited to just 15%, while the Bay Area Rapid Transit District alone receives over 35%.
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- Approval of two projects through the use of public-private partnerships. One of these would be recommended to be a goods movement project.
- Approval of six projects on a pilot basis using the design-build contracting method.

### **Oscar Night and Metro Red Line Trains**

Media Relations issued a news release this morning that all Metro Red Line subway trains will not stop at the Hollywood/Highland station this Sunday due to the 78th Annual Academy Awards show at the Kodak Theater. The trains will operate on a regular schedule, but will pass through the Hollywood/Highland station without stopping. There will be no public access to the station. In addition, the release notes that due to the closure of a portion of Hollywood Blvd. several Metro Bus Lines will be detoured.

### **Go Metro To The Home Show March 17-19**

Media Relations distributed a press release this afternoon encouraging patrons to Go Metro to this year's Home Show held at the Los Angeles Convention Center March 17-19. Patrons can receive half off the admission price to the show by showing their valid Metro passes or tickets.

### **Eastside Construction Marks Safety Record**

Media Relations issued a news release today announcing that construction crews working on the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension received an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award today after recording 500,000 work-hours without having a loss of work time injury.

### **Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Supports Wilshire Bus Lane and Red Line Extension**

On February 28, the Board of Directors of the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce passed transit related resolutions. One resolution supports the extension of the "Red Line Subway to the Westside, with one or more stations being located within the business districts of Beverly Hills." The second resolution supports the Metro proposal "to create an exclusive bus lane on Wilshire Boulevard between Doheny Drive and Fairfax Avenue during peak traffic periods, and consider an extension to Beverly Drive, on a trial basis of not more than one year, in order to promote the use of public transportation and help alleviate traffic gridlock along the Wilshire Corridor." Both resolutions will be presented to the Beverly Hills City Council.

### **Of Note**

On this day in 1972, Metro Division 2 took delivery of one of four steam turbine

powered buses for a one year \$7.9 million alternative power and clean air demonstration project sponsored by the Urban Mass Transit Administration (now FTA) and the California Air Resources Board. San Diego, Sacramento and San Francisco transit agencies also took delivery of steam-powered coaches with propulsion systems designed by William Lear (of Lear Jet fame). None of the buses survive. The steam engines proved somewhat troublesome and did not yield the expected fuel savings (diesel fuel was used to heat the boilers), however, the government sponsored project sparked private sector interest in clear air and alternative fuel technologies for transit buses. William Lear later reused the buses steam propulsion system in a racecar that set a world speed record.

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