



Metro

Daily Brief

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Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension/LA County Crematorium Update

Last Thursday, March 23, the Project Archeologist presented her report to the community's Review Advisory Committee (RAC) Ad-Hoc Sub-committee. She presented a timeline from when the construction was stopped through the archeological excavation recovery and analysis phase. The Project Archeologist presented initial findings along with a display of artifacts that were discovered with the burials. Through the RAC Ad-Hoc Committee, Metro will work with the community to receive public feedback on a sensitive and respectful re-internment plan, ceremony and fitting memorial. The final report is expected to be completed in May. Various news and television media attended the meeting.

Today, the Rafu Shimpo Newspaper requested a statement from Metro on the burials uncovered at the LA County Crematorium during construction work on the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension.

Staff directed them to the fact sheet posted on the Metro web site http://www.metro.net/images/archeological_factSheet.pdf for information on the skeletal remains and artifacts that were found and also confirmed the next Ad-Hoc Subcommittee meeting will be held at Castelar Elementary School in Chinatown on April 27. A story is expected to run in the next few days.

House Panel Examines State of Transit Security

The House Highways and Transit Subcommittee convened a hearing today in Washington to explore current issues surrounding transit security. Subcommittee chairman Tom Petri (R-WI) observed that 42% of all terrorist attacks worldwide have been aimed at transit and bus systems. He also criticized the huge disparity in federal spending between aviation security and

transit security. Echoing this theme, Representative Jim Oberstar (D-MN), who described transit and ports as the "stepchildren of America", applauded transit properties for investing \$2 billion of their own resources for transit security and not waiting for federal assistance.

During the hearing, the Director of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) expressed serious concern over the notable gaps in coordination between the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. GAO also conducted a worldwide review of transit systems and sited London and Hong Kong as having comprehensive, strategic security systems in place. Nevertheless, these and other systems continue to face considerable vulnerabilities.

The House Transportation Committee is expected to develop a multiyear transit security authorization bill in the coming months.

House Subcommittee Seeks Changes to Color-Coded Terror Warning System

A Congressional subcommittee approved a bill today that would eliminate the use of the color-coded terrorism threat warning system that is currently employed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The legislation, co-authored by California Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-16) and Connecticut Congressman Rob Simmons (R-CT), was adopted by the House Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment. Rather than using color designations as the sole terror alerts, the bill passed today would require the Department of Homeland Security to provide more specific warnings, targeted to a region or sector of the economy. The bill stipulates that these more specific warnings would include recommendations for appropriate responses. This legislation now moves to the full House Homeland Security Committee for consideration.

Metro Red Line Security Update

KCBS/KCAL News interviewed Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis today regarding a recent attack on a female patron that occurred at the Metro Red Line Wilshire/Vermont Station a few days ago. Gerald stressed that the system is safe and that this attack appears to be an isolated incident. The reporter was told that in recent months we have upgraded our surveillance equipment on the Metro Red Line to enable us to use state-of-the-art technology. The reporter also was told that the LASD, under contract to Metro, provides security for our system and that additional undercover officers have been deployed. LASD is still investigating the alleged attack earlier this week. LASD was also interviewed for the story. The story is expected to air tonight.

Shooting On Board Metro Bus Route 48 of Line 10

Media Relations responded to the scene of a shooting this morning on board Metro Bus Route 48 of Line 10 at Main and 43rd Street. A male suspect apparently shot another male patron while exiting the bus. The victim was transported to California Hospital with gun shot wounds to the arm and head. There were approximately 12 other passengers on board the bus at the time of the shooting. LASD responded to the scene and are currently conducting an investigation. Media stories may air tonight regarding the incident.

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