



Metro

Daily Brief

Friday May 26, 2006

20060526-0

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In this issue:

- [Transportation Spending Bill Cleared by House Panel](#)
- [Transit Security Takes Center Stage on House Floor](#)
- [Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension – Construction Project Utility Work](#)
- [Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension – LA County Crematorium Update](#)
- [Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events](#)
- [Of Note](#)

Transportation Spending Bill Cleared by House Panel

Late last night, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development marked up and approved a draft \$67.8 billion spending bill for FY2007. While details of the subcommittee draft were not released, the bill meets the SAFETEA-LU spending guarantees and provides the fully authorized amount of \$1.566 billion for the New Starts program. In addition, the subcommittee rejected the Bush Administration's proposed \$100 million reduction in the "Small Starts" program, but also included a provision that prohibits any money in the bill from funding small starts in FY2007. The subcommittee draft provides \$900 million for Amtrak, identical to the figure requested by the White House. This amount is only half of what Amtrak needs to operate.

The subcommittee did not include any projects or earmarks in its draft bill. However, projects are expected to be added by the full House Appropriations Committee, which will mark up the bill on June 6.

Transit Security Takes Center Stage on House Floor

As reported in yesterday's Daily Brief, the House yesterday approved an amendment to the Homeland Security Appropriations bill that boosts funding for public transportation security to \$200 million for FY2007, an increase of \$50 million over the committee-passed bill. While the vast majority of amendments offered on the House floor were rejected, this was one of the very few that prevailed. Yesterday's action represents a victory for transit security and reflects the fact that lawmakers recognize the importance of providing adequate federal

resources to safeguard transit and rail systems.

The amendment by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) passed by a vote of 225-197, with 41 Republicans joining 183 Democrats and 1 Independent in support. Of the 41 Republicans who voted for the amendment, most were from the Northeast and Midwest, with only one West Coast Republican (Rep. Dave Reichert of Washington) supporting the amendment. Republican opposition is likely due to the fact that the GOP leadership largely opposed any add-on amendments.

A similar effort will likely be mounted in the Senate when its version of the Homeland Security Appropriations bill is brought up for consideration. Metro's federal advocacy team will be actively involved in this effort.

Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension – Construction Project Utility Work

Construction work crews for the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension will begin installing new utilities on First Street, between Mission Road and Gless Street on Tuesday May 30 for a period of eight weeks. The working hours will be 7 a.m. to 4 pm, Monday to Friday and periodic weekends when needed. During this construction period pedestrian traffic and traffic lanes will be moved as needed either to the north or south sides of First Street depending on construction activities. Access to all homes and businesses during this construction activity will be maintained.

Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension – LA County Crematorium Update

Metro staff made a presentation on the re-interment spatial requirements and provided options on a re-interment approach for the Ad-Hoc Sub Committee's consideration. The Committee provided Metro staff with enough information to return to the June meeting with a detailed re-interment approach at Evergreen Cemetery.

The Committee's preference is that the re-interment take place in individual casket/vault combination units underground rather than any form of grouped re-interment whether it be underground (several caskets in a concrete vault) or above ground (mausoleum). While the Committee prefers that all of the remains and artifacts be re-interred at Evergreen Cemetery, they will consider separating out some cemetery markers, bottles, refuse and soil only if we encounter space limitations. If there are space limitations for everything to be re-interred in the same area (adjacent to the Historical Chinese Shrine), they would consider other areas on Evergreen Cemetery and/or the LA County Crematorium behind the new retaining wall (an area already cleared during preliminary excavation).

Staff will provide a detailed report for the June meeting that considers the Committee's wishes. Additionally, staff will bring samples of the casket and casket/vault combination unit for their review. Lastly, the committee will discuss

the issue of whether the artifacts should be re-interred or donated to an organization for curation.

Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board Meeting Agenda

The Exposition Metro Line Authority Construction Board is scheduled to meet Thursday June 1, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in the Metro Board Room (please note the location change for this month only.)

The Board will consider staff's recommendation for an increase in the hourly rates for legal services. The Consent Calendar items are a Receive and File monthly report on CEO authorized contracts and supporting SB 1384 (Kuehl) with amendments. The General Board Discussion item is a Monthly Project Status Update.

Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events

Next week, I will be meeting with Supervisor Yaroslavsky, Doug Failing of Caltrans, Commander Finkelstein, Captain Pat Jordan & Captain Anthony LaBerge. I will be attending the Congressional Security Staff Briefing, the FTA New Starts Projects Quarterly Review Meeting, Mobility 21 Coalition Meeting, and the Expo Board Meeting.

Of Note

On May 27, 1974 a articulated bus manufactured by Volvo and seating up to 75 people debuts on the streets of Los Angeles as part of a demonstration program to test the feasibility of high capacity vehicles.

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