



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

Friday, June 09, 2006

20060609-0

CEO Roger Snoble

## In this issue:

- [FTA Releases Guidance on Small Starts Program](#)
- [17<sup>th</sup> Annual TRANNY Award Luncheon](#)
- [Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension - Review Advisory Committee Meeting](#)
- [Strong Metro Orange Line Ridership Growth Recorded For May](#)
- [Upcoming CEO Meetings and Events](#)

---

## FTA Releases Guidance on Small Starts Program

Today, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) unveiled interim guidance for the "Small Starts" program. A copy was obtained by Metro and is attached below.

In a nutshell, the interim guidance provides project sponsors with the necessary information needed to apply for funding in advance of the final rule, which will be completed next year. It also describes the process that FTA will use to evaluate proposed Small Starts projects. Per SAFETEA-LU, Small Starts projects are defined as projects requesting less than \$75 million in New Starts funding, with a total project cost of less than \$250 million. FTA intends to evaluate and rate Small Starts projects in a manner largely similar to traditional New Starts projects, with a few differences. In addition, like New Starts projects, Small Starts projects will be rated on project justification (which covers land use, cost effectiveness, economic development and other factors) and local financial commitment.

The guidance also defines a new category called "Very Small Starts". According to FTA, "Very Small Starts" are simple and low-risk projects that do not include construction of a new fixed guideway and have a total capital cost of less than \$50 million and less than \$3 million per mile (not including rolling stock). Projects that meet the definition of "Very Small Starts" will be eligible for a very simple and expedited evaluation and rating process.

The release of the Small Starts interim guidance now triggers a 30-day comment period. FTA also plans to hold "listening sessions" over the next few weeks in New York and Chicago.

---

## **17<sup>th</sup> Annual TRANNY Award Luncheon**

At its 17th Annual TRANNY Awards luncheon on Wednesday, June 7, 2006, the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) awarded the Metro Orange Line with their Project of the Year and the Transit Project of the Year awards. The CTF also gave Metro's Intelligent Transportation System for Bus Transit an award for Transit Management Program of the Year. Mission Meridian Village, Transit Oriented Development in South Pasadena - a project that Metro partnered in - won the Program Special Recognition award.

In announcing the awards for the Metro Orange Line the CTF recognized Metro, the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Gruen Associates, Shimmick Construction Co./Obayashi Corporation a Joint Venture, and Washington Group International for their contributions to the project.

In announcing the award to Metro's Intelligent Transportation System for Bus Transit project, the CTF recognized the City of Inglewood, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, and Parson Brinckerhoff Farradyne in addition to Metro.

Partners in the Mission Meridian Village project included the California Transportation Commission, City of South Pasadena, Creative Housing Associates, Metro, and Lambert Development.

The CTF is a non-profit public benefit corporation in California that is dedicated to the promotion and recognition of excellence in California transportation.

## **Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension - Review Advisory Committee Meeting**

Last night, Metro Construction and Community Relations staff provided a monthly update to the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Review Advisory Committee (RAC) and reported that the first of the two tunnel boring machines has tunneled over 1,600 feet (Vicki) and the second machine (Lola) has tunneled over 530 feet. Metro staff also provided an update on the RAC Ad-Hoc Subcommittee activities related to the LA County Crematorium site re-interment plan. An update was also provided on the property exchange agreement and funding plan to re-build Ramona Opportunity High School at the Indiana Street Station; after which the Review Advisory Committee members encouraged the community to attend the Board of Education meeting that will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2006, where LAUSD's staff recommendation will be presented for approval.

## **Strong Metro Orange Line Ridership Growth Recorded For May**

The Metro Orange Line in May hit a new record in ridership recording 21,828 average weekday boardings. The EIR had estimated 22,000 boarding by the

---

year 2020. The immigration protests May 1 where riders flocked on the Metro Orange Line and the Metro Red Line to travel downtown impacted ridership as well as the high cost of gas and strong ridership on the Metro Red Line. The news media is expected to note the ridership increase tonight and tomorrow.

### **Upcoming CEO Meetings and Events**

Next week, I will be meeting separately with Directors O'Connor; Lowenthal; Najarian; and Failing. In addition, I will be attending the General Managers Meeting.

---

[Metro.net Home](#) | [Press Room](#) | [Projects & Programs](#) | [Meeting Agendas](#) | [Riding Metro](#) | [Metro Library](#)

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
1 Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, California 90012-2952  
Phone: 213-922-6888  
Fax: 213-922-7447

---