



Metro

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U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta Announces Resignation

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta today submitted a letter of resignation to the White House. His resignation will be effective July 7, 2006. In his resignation letter, Secretary Mineta cited several key accomplishments during his tenure, including the passage of SAFETEA-LU and the development of a traffic congestion reduction initiative. He also mentioned his agency's response following the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the U.S. Department of Transportation's role in rebuilding infrastructure in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mineta was the 14th Secretary of Transportation and the longest-serving transportation chief. He was also the first Cabinet member to switch directly from a Democratic Administration (where he served as Secretary of Commerce under President Clinton) to a Republican Administration, and also made history by being the first-ever Asian American Cabinet secretary. Today's announcement caps a long and distinguished career in public service: San Jose City Council (1967-1971), Mayor of San Jose (1971-1975), U.S. Representative (1975-1995), Secretary of Commerce (2000-2001), and Secretary of Transportation (2001-2006).

Secretary Mineta has always taken a strong interest in Metro's programs and projects, particularly the Eastside Extension. He has been a great friend of public transportation in general and Metro in particular – and he will be sorely missed.

San Fernando Valley on a Roll

Multiple media outlets covered today's Valley Transit Improvements Press Event in Van Nuys where Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and other officials previewed new

Metro Bus improvements that are set to debut this Sunday and Monday. High-capacity buses will be deployed on Van Nuys and Ventura Boulevards and new Metro Rapid Line 734 will provide weekday service on Sepulveda Boulevard from Sherman Oaks to the Sylmar Metrolink station. Joining the Mayor were LA City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel, Director Richard Katz, Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) General Manager Gloria Jeff and myself, along with other community leaders. Channels 4, 7, 35, 54, and 62 covered the event along with KNX, KFWB, KFI and KCSN radio, the Los Angeles Times, the Los Angeles Daily news and La Opinion.

Route 710 Tunnel Feasibility Study Public Meeting Recap

A meeting was held last night at the Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena to present the public with the findings of the Preliminary Tunnel Feasibility Study for the Route 710 gap closure. The presentation was made by the San Gabriel Valley Planning Area Team and Community Relations staff and addressed an audience of at least 100 people.

In attendance were representatives from the offices of Congressman Schiff, State Senator Cedillo, the Mayor of South Pasadena and Councilmembers representing Pasadena and La Canada. Media attendance included KNBC-TV, Crown Cable, the Los Angeles Times, the Pasadena Star News, Chinese Daily News and the South Pasadena Review. This first public meeting will be followed by presentations of the study findings to the city councils of Alhambra, La Canada, Los Angeles, Pasadena, San Marino, and the San Gabriel Valley Council of Government's Transportation Committee. The next meeting will occur in South Pasadena, next Wednesday, June 28th.

Upcoming CEO Meetings and Events

Next week, I will be meeting with Gloria Jeff, General Manager for LADOT. I will also be attending the Eastside Partnering Executive Session and the Surface Transportation Policy Project Coalition L.A. Workshop. Additionally, I will be attending the Expo Construction Authority Open House, the Route 710 Tunnel Feasibility Study Meeting with the City of South Pasadena City Council and the Mobility 21 Executive Committee Meeting.

Of Note

On June 24, 2000 Metro Red Line Segment 3, Hollywood/Vine to North Hollywood, opens, on budget and six months ahead of the December 31, 2000 deadline mandated in the agency's construction funding agreement with the federal government. Simultaneously, the MTA debuted its Metro Rapid buses on

Ventura Boulevard and along Wilshire Boulevard. Modeled after the rapid bus system in Curitiba, Brazil, the new service expedited bus connections to subway stations.

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