



Metro

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Metro Division 10 Employee Incident

Earlier today, a Metro Division 10 employee became enraged after being placed on administrative suspension. At approximately 12:30 p.m., the employee entered the bus yard, retrieved a 40-foot bus, and proceeded to drive the vehicle around the yard, crashing into a 60-foot Metro Liner Bus. The employee apparently then boarded another 40-foot bus, which was driven into the maintenance parking lot, where 13 private employee vehicles and a second bus were struck. The employee was transported to County-USC Medical Center for observation and later arrested for felony vandalism by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. Media Relations responded to the scene and assisted crews from KABC and CNN. Stories on the incident are expected to air this evening. Importantly, no injuries were reported.

U.S. Senate Defeats Effort to Increase Transit Security Grants

Late last night, the U.S. Senate rejected an amendment to the FY 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill that would have increased funding for transit and rail security grants from \$150 million to \$450 million. The amendment, offered by Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA), failed on a 50-50 vote. Under Senate budget rules, 60 votes were needed for the amendment to secure passage.

Both California senators voted in favor of the amendment. In addition, six Republican senators cast "aye" votes. In the aftermath of last night's defeat, there is reportedly an effort in the works to assemble a more modest amendment to increase transit security funding by \$50 million. Members and staff are attempting to identify appropriate offsets for the amendment, to allow for a majority vote instead of a 3/5 vote. However, time may be running out, as the Senate leadership is expected to conclude debate on all amendments and proceed to a final vote on the FY 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations

measure this evening.

Metro's federal advocacy team is closely monitoring the Senate proceedings and I will be sure to inform you of any new developments.

Of Note

On this day in 1941, predecessor agency, Los Angeles Motor Coach (1923-1949) opened its Vineyard Division on Pico Boulevard. Los Angeles Motor Coach was jointly owned by Pacific Electric and Los Angeles Railway, the company provided bus service on Wilshire Boulevard and connections between rail lines.

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