



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

**Wednesday July 19, 2006**

20060719-0

**CEO Roger Snoble**

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## **Congressional Transportation Committee Adopts Waxman Bill to Lift Federal Tunneling Prohibition**

Earlier today, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure moved to adopt a bill ([H.R. 4653](#)) authored by Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) to remove a ban prohibiting the disbursement of federal funding for rail tunnels passing through specific methane zones within the City of Los Angeles. The bill, which was passed by voice vote, has been pending in the Committee's Subcommittee on Railroads since last December. The measure may now be considered by the full U.S. House of Representatives. The original language restricting federal funding was included by Congressman Waxman in the 1986 U.S. Department of Transportation Appropriations Act (P.L. No. 99-190). Metro's Board of Directors adopted a support position with respect to H.R.4653 on January 26, 2006.

## **Federal Transportation Committee Holds Hearing on Transit Security**

The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines held a hearing today on transit security entitled, "The Federal Transit Administration's State Safety Oversight Program." This Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Program was created under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and allows for states to designate an oversight authority to supervise the safety and security of transit agencies. At the hearing, a representative from the Government Accountability Office expressed his department's belief that federal and state agencies should not have competing safety and security plans. Subcommittee member Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) shared his opinion that the federal government's involvement on transit safety and security matters has, thus far, been inadequate. He also noted that the FTA has not published any performance goals through which the effectiveness of safety and security

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programs may be adequately measured. The American Public Transit Association's President, Bill Millar, also expressed his desire for the FTA to focus more closely on the needs of individual transit agencies.

### **Downtown Regional Connector**

Earlier today, the *Los Angeles Times* inquired about last month's Board approval of \$100,000 to study the feasibility of a light rail regional connector in downtown Los Angeles. Staff noted that the study will include an examination of the various routes available for use by the connector, as well as ridership and cost estimates. The requirement of community input on this project was also highlighted.

### **EMAC Committee Item on Proposed Color Designations**

The *Daily News*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and KCBS/KCAL also inquired today about the color designations item set to be reviewed by this week's Executive Management and Audit Committee. Stories on the subject may appear in tomorrow's newspapers.

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