# **Daily Brief**

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**CEO Roger Snoble** 

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## **Antelope Valley Freeway HOV Lanes Media Event**

Caltrans is holding a <u>media event</u> on Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. for the opening of the Antelope Valley Freeway (State Route 14) High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes from Mountain Springs to Avenue P-8. The event location is the cul-de-sac at 5th Street West and Avenue P-4 in Palmdale. The project will alleviate congestion, create ride-sharing usage and reduce air pollution. Metro allocated \$2,199,000 for this project in FY 2001. The project balance of \$38,635,000 was programmed in FY 2004 and FY 2005 from Federal RSTP, Proposition C and Federal CMAQ monies.

### Freeway Call Boxes vs. Cell Phones

The Daily News, Santa Clarita Edition is preparing a story on the decline of pay phones in the county as a result of the high usage of cell phones. As part of the story, the reporter interviewed staff from Los Angeles Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies regarding the Freeway Call Box Program. Staff reported that we currently receive about 6,000 calls per month from the call boxes on area freeways, down from 20,000 monthly calls in 2000. Staff is currently examining ways to incorporate the use of cell phones, such as the #399 non-emergency roadside assistance cell phone number recently introduced. A review is also underway concerning the number of freeway call boxes actually needed in light of increased cell phone use. It is anticipated that the results of this latter study will be presented to the Board in November. The story is expected to run this weekend.

## **Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board Meeting Recap**

The Exposition Metro Line Authority Construction Board met today and voted to approve the Master Cooperative Agreement between the City of Los Angeles

and Metro. The Board also approved a resolution adopting the Authority's Conflict of Interest Code, the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Metro, and a travel and business policy. Finally the Expo Board received reports on CEO-approved contracts, the Monthly Project Status Update, Expo Jobs Program and the issuance of a Request for Proposal for Phase Two consultant support services.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.

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