

Daily Brief

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U.S. Senate Confirms Federal Transit Administrator

Late last night, the U.S. Senate confirmed James Simpson as Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Simpson, who once served as a Commissioner of the New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority, was nominated by President Bush in January. He will soon be sworn into office and assume the top post that was vacated last year by the previous FTA Administrator, Jenna Dorn.

Transit TV Customer Satisfaction

The Los Angeles Times inquired this week about customer response to flatscreen TV monitors now installed on most Metro buses in Los Angeles County. Staff reported that customers have been overwhelmingly supportive of the devices. According to the Spring 2006 Systemwide Bus and Rail Survey, 89% of customers said they are aware of the Transit TVs on buses, and 84% prefer having the TVs on board the buses. The agency has ensured that the volume of Transit TV content be lowered to address the concerns of some customers. New features planned for the system include a GPS mapping system that will show where the bus currently is in reference to its route. The story may run as early as this weekend.

Upcoming CEO Meetings and Events

Next week, I will be meeting with Director Fleming, Dr. Tyree Weider of Los Angeles Valley College, Ron Kaye of the *Daily News*, Allan Pollock of Montebello Bus Line, Stephanie Negriff of Santa Monica Bus Line, Larry Jackson of Long Beach Transit and Gary Toebben of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. I will participate in the Valley Industry and Commerce Association and Economic Alliance of San Fernando Valley Luncheon, the General Managers Group Meeting, and the Special Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Board Meeting. I will also be interviewed for KCET's Life & Times program.

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