



Metro

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Photo Enforcement Cameras on Metro Orange Line

Photo enforcement cameras are the latest tool Metro has employed to deter San Fernando Valley motorists from risking their safety and that of Metro Orange Line passengers by trying to circumvent traffic signals. Camera installation began in June and is now complete at nine intersections, with the remaining three cameras scheduled to be installed by the end of this month. Metro Orange Line intersections outfitted with cameras will eventually include: Tujunga, Woodman, Buffalo, Kester, Sepulveda, Woodley, White Oak, Balboa, Reseda, Mason, Lindley and DeSoto.

Under the program, cameras will photograph motorists just as they enter intersections on a red light. Motorists are then identified by their license plate number, and a copy of the photograph and a citation are then mailed to violators. Signs have also been posted at all intersections to give motorists advanced warning that they are approaching an intersection equipped with photo enforcement cameras. The penalty for failing to stop at a red light in Los Angeles is \$271, but may be increased if other violations occur simultaneously. Similar cameras have been employed on the Metro Blue Line and have resulted in a dramatic reduction of illegal left-hand turns and crossing-gate violations.

A 30-day warning enforcement period was enacted on July 18th. During this interim period, the installed cameras began photographing motorists who run red lights along the transitway. Instead of citations, drivers have received a photograph and a warning letter. This process will continue for one more week until the warning period ends on Friday, August 18th. After that day, motorists

receive citations in a similar fashion to other photo-enforced intersections throughout the City of Los Angeles.



APTA Procurement Standards Working Groups Meeting Recap

Last week in Washington DC the first three Procurement Standards Working Groups were established in an effort to begin the long, iterative process of drafting, approving, and publishing the first set of Transit Community Procurement Standards. This process is expected to take at least one year under the direction of the Procurement Standards Oversight Committee, chaired by Metro's Procurement Chief, Lonnie Mitchell. One of Metro's Procurement Managers, Steve Goodwin, is the Chair of the Procurement Planning Working Group, which also includes Kathy Mack, Metro's Cost Estimating Manager. The other two working have been tasked with establishing uniformity in Standard Contract Formats and Risk Management procedures and policies.

Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Community Meeting Recap

This past Monday (August 7th), Metro held a Community Workshop to update local residents of expected traffic and other impacts to neighborhoods along the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension construction project. The construction work will begin on August 14th and is expected to occur through November, 2007. Residents of the area along 1st Street between Lorena and Indiana Streets in

Boyle Heights were invited to attend and encouraged to give feedback. A crew from KMEX-TV Channel 34 also attended the forum and aired interviews with several residents throughout the evening. Reaction to the construction appeared favorable and seemed to reflect an overall level of support from the community which is looking forward to the opening of the project in 2009.

I-5 Freeway Widening Project

Earlier today, I spoke with a reporter from the *Los Angeles Times'* Orange County Edition about possible bottleneck problems that may result after the I-5 freeway is widened in Orange County from 6 to 10 lanes. I explained that Metro is working closely with Caltrans on plans to similarly widen the I-5 freeway in Los Angeles County, and that the project is one of our top highway priorities. In fact, while Caltrans is the lead agency for the project, Metro has already programmed funding for the first section of the widening from the county line to the I-605 freeway. The effort will add four to six lanes to the highway's existing six lanes, and also include some modernization work. I also explained that this project is contained in Metro's Long Range Transportation Plan. Additionally, Metro meets with the region's various other transit agencies on a monthly basis ensuring regional coordination of projects to the best extent possible. I also noted that Metro is a multimodal transportation agency and that we are currently working on a number of projects serving the needs of Los Angeles' diverse population including rail, bus service, freeway improvements and the maintenance of bicycle paths.

Foiled Airplane Bombing Plot Draws Media Inquiries

In the wake of the foiled airline bombing plot in London earlier today, Media Relations received a number of calls inquiring about the security of Metro buses and trains. Reporters were informed that the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) added some undercover officers throughout the system as well as a canine bomb-sniffing unit at the Metrolink station near the Bob Hope Airport in Burbank. LASD has been in constant communication with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and there have been no warnings of a threat to surface transportation.

Harbor Subdivision Right-of-Way

Earlier today, the Copley News Service interviewed staff from the Planning Department regarding the Harbor Subdivision right-of-way and projects currently being examined for the alignment. Staff reported that they are currently conducting a technical feasibility report on the alignment examining various transit modes including Diesel Multiple Unit technology, Bus Rapid Transit, Metro

Rapid buses, Metrolink trains and light rail options. A feature story is expected to run this weekend in the *Daily Breeze*.

Biketown Event Held at Gateway Plaza

Metro hosted Bicycling Magazine's Biketown USA event this morning at Gateway Plaza. During this morning's program, 50 new bicycles were awarded to participants in an essay contest who wrote about how the incorporation of a bicycle into their daily lives could affect change for themselves, their families and their communities. Biketown USA is a nationwide campaign to promote the use of bicycles as an alternative life style and a valuable transportation option. Spanish language station Ch. 62, City News Service and the *Chinese Daily News* attended the event. Stories are expected to run tomorrow.

Metro's Guaranteed Ride Home Program

Media Relations issued a [news release](#) today unveiling the newest regional program of our southland transportation agency partnership. Called the "Guaranteed Ride Home," the collaboration encourages commuters to share rides to and from their workplaces. The program takes the guesswork out of ridesharing by providing qualified employees a free rental car or taxi ride home if an emergency arises during the workday. Guaranteed Ride Home is sponsored by Metro, the Orange County Transportation Authority, the Riverside County Transportation Commission and the San Bernardino Associated Governments. Per the program, employees who rideshare to work can receive up to four free emergency rental car or taxi rides home in a 12-month period.

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