



Metro

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CEO Roger Snoble

In this issue:

- [Arrest and Filing of Harbor Green Line 459 Suspect](#)
- [Harbor Subdivision Right-of-Way Technical Feasibility Analysis Update](#)
- [Free Transit Week Proposal](#)
- [Bus Operator Recruitment and Training](#)
- [Artist Workshops](#)

Arrest and Filing of Harbor Green Line 459 Suspect

Cooperation between Metro's Transit Service Bureau and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) has, once again, yielded an arrest for vandalism of Metro property. On August 11th, a suspect was observed on surveillance video at the Harbor Green Line Metro station burglarizing a ticket vending machine. Based upon the video, a wanted flyer was drawn-up by LASD and distributed throughout the County.

Last week, a Metro canine officer on patrol at Union Station observed a person closely matching the description of the Harbor burglary suspect. The suspect was tracked to the Metro Red Line's 7th/Metro Station where he was then detained with the help of fare collectors and Metro and LASD officers. The suspect was later identified as an at-large parolee with prior burglary convictions. This case was recently presented to the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office in Compton where the suspect was charged with one count of burglary and a special allegation of vandalism in excess of \$50,000. The vandalism count stems from the fact that the suspect caused \$100,000 in damage to a ticket vending machine during the burglary.

Harbor Subdivision Right-of-Way Technical Feasibility Analysis Update

As part of Metro's 2006 Budget, funds were appropriated for a technical feasibility analysis of the types of passenger transit services (Diesel Multiple Unit, Bus Rapid Transit, Light Rail Transit, Metrolink or Heavy Rail) which could be operated on the Metro-owned Harbor Subdivision right-of-way. The effort was undertaken to pursue options for this unused Metro asset. As part of the purchase agreement for this route between Metro and Burlington-Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF), BNSF retained operating rights in the corridor in perpetuity.

Therefore, a key aspect of Metro's technical feasibility analysis is to examine the types of passenger transit service that could be operated with and without freight rail traffic. As part of the analysis, rough cost and ridership figures are being modeled. It is anticipated that this effort should be completed in Fall 2006 with results being reported to the Board at that time.

Depending upon the results of the analysis, the Metro Board could decide to undertake the next phase of project development for this right-of-way, which would consist of a Major Investment Study (MIS) to examine the alternatives for this corridor in a more detailed manner. The Board reserved initial funds to begin an MIS in the agency's FY07 Supplemental Budget.

Free Transit Week Proposal

Earlier today, *La Opinión* inquired about opposition from the Bus Riders Union (BRU) to Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's proposal for Metro to evaluate the feasibility of a "Free Transit Week." The BRU would like to see a reduction in the cost of monthly passes as an alternative plan. Staff reported that while the Board has not yet made a decision on the matter, the agency is nevertheless operating in a structural deficit. Consequently, lowering monthly pass fares in this environment would continue to erode operating revenues. Additionally, staff noted that Metro has continued to expand bus services throughout Los Angeles County while only recovering about 25% of its revenues from fare boxes. The story is expected to run tomorrow.

Bus Operator Recruitment and Training

The *Los Angeles Times*, *Daily News* and *Hoy* have all inquired about Metro's new bus operator recruitment efforts and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's Board motion to allocate additional funds to fill 300 vacancies within the next six months. Staff relayed that these funds would be used for a Bridge Program to better prepare bus operator candidates in the areas of study skills, customer service, Americans with Disabilities Act issues and English proficiency. The Bridge Program is a partnership between Metro and area community colleges, WorkSource centers and others. Upon completion of this program, candidates will undergo further Metro training, including rigorous classroom instruction and bus simulator testing. Stories are expected to run tomorrow.

Artist Workshops

Metro Art is hosting three [Artist Workshops](#) to inform interested artists about upcoming opportunities in the Metro system, including stations along the Mid-

City/Exposition light rail line. Each workshop will cover the same information and is free and open to the public. The workshops will be held from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at the following dates and locations:

- September 12th at the Museum of Jurassic Technology in Culver City
- September 14th at the World Stage Performance Gallery in Leimert Park
- September 21st at the Museum of Neon Art in downtown Los Angeles

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