



Metro

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Congressional Subcommittee Chairman Visits Metro

Earlier today, Metro hosted Congressman Joe Knollenberg (R-MI), Chairman of the House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee. He was given an overview of Metro's programs and ongoing capital projects. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Supervisor Yvonne Burke and Director Pam O'Connor were also in attendance and participated in the briefing.

Afterwards, Congressman Knollenberg was taken to the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension construction site where he was briefed on the status of the project by Washington Group International. The contractor also took him on a short tour of the project's tunnel. It was the Congressman's first visit to Gateway Plaza and the Eastside Extension project since he assumed the chairmanship last year.

Federal Transit Administration Quarterly Review Recap

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Starts Projects Quarterly Review Meeting was held earlier today at Metro headquarters. Edward Carranza, FTA Deputy Regional Administrator for Region IX, highlighted the Administration's recent organizational changes including the installation of James Simpson as the FTA Administrator and the hiring of Nadeem Tahir as the Director of Program Management for Region IX. Rick Thorpe, Carol Inge and other Metro staff provided updates on current Metro activities including Consent Decree, the Mid-City/Exposition Light Rail Transit project, the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension project, safety/security training, the 2550 Rail Vehicle Program and Metro's Long Range Transportation Plan.

Reason Foundation Study Calls for More Highways

Earlier today, *The Daily News* inquired about a report being issued by the Reason Foundation tomorrow which calls for California to add thousands of additional miles of highway to ease congestion, at a cost of nearly \$122 billion. The study highlights how a number of metro areas seem to be ignoring commuting and transportation trends. The study claims that instead of reducing congestion by adding capacity on the roads and freeways, many city planners are hoping to shift the behavior of people by encouraging them to leave their cars at home. The reporter was told that in developing the Long Range Transportation Plan in 2001, Metro examined both highway and transit strategies and developed a balanced approach between the two, finding that the combined strategy was the most effective in reducing congestion. The story is expected to run tomorrow.

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