



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

**Thursday September 7, 2006**  
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**CEO Roger Snoble**

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### **“Go Rio” Transit Pass Program Unveiled at Rio Hondo College**

This morning, I participated in a press event at Rio Hondo College to unveil an innovative new transit program called “Go Rio” which offers free transit passes to all full-time Rio Hondo College students. The program, the first of its kind in the region, was developed as part of the college’s ongoing commitment to increase access to post-secondary education. Partners in the program include Metro, Foothill Transit and Norwalk Transit. Stories on the program may appear in area newspapers tomorrow.

### **House Panel Reviews Highway Capacity and Freight Issues**

Earlier today, the U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee convened a hearing to gain the perspective of shippers and businesses on the impending highway capacity shortage and to examine the shortage’s impact on the distribution of resources and products. Senior executives from FedEx Freight, Wal-Mart and Schneider National testified at the hearing. Witnesses indicated that 69% of total freight in the country is transported via truck and that domestic freight transportation is set to increase by another 70% over the next 15 years. They also contended that truckers and trucking firms absorb a disproportionately large burden in terms of financing infrastructure projects as a result of excise taxes and user fees targeted at the shipping and cargo industries.

Although members of the Committee did not specifically cite freight congestion at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) noted the importance of both creating intermodal connections in large metropolitan areas and promoting transit as a means of combating freight

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congestion on highways. Blumenauer also lamented the growing de-emphasis on intermodalism in federal transportation programs and called for a greater focus on intermodal approaches to addressing congestion.

### **State Legislative Staff Tour**

Next week, Metro will be hosting a briefing and tour for legislative transportation staff from Sacramento. The visit, which will be held from September 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> will include a briefing on Thursday with tours of the Port of Los Angeles, the Exposition Light Rail alignment and the Metro Gold Line. On Friday the group will tour the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, the Metro Red Line, several of Metro's joint development projects and the Metro Orange Line. Board Members who wish to participate in the briefing or any of the tours are encouraged to contact my office for more information and so that we may make the necessary arrangements.

### **Patsaouras Transit Plaza Closure Update**

As reported in [yesterday's Daily Brief](#), Patsaouras Transit Plaza is in need of repaving. However, closure of the Plaza, initially set to begin on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> has been postponed. Metro General Services believes that the construction work will be rescheduled for mid-October. More information will be provided as details are finalized.

### **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 with Caltrans and the FY07 Annual Work Plan with the City of Los Angeles. The Board also authorized the CEO to amend the Design/Build Construction contract with DMJM Harris, issue a notice-to-proceed with a construction package for Flower Street corridor improvements between Washington Blvd. and 23<sup>rd</sup> Streets, and approve a contract for a Contractor-Controlled Insurance Program with FCI/Fluor/Parsons. Finally the Expo Board received reports on CEO-approved contracts and the Monthly Project Status Update.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.

### **Of Note**

On this day in 2004, construction began on the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. As of today, one of the tunnel boring machines, named Lola, has

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tunneled a total of 3,950 feet. The other machine, Vicki, is preparing to re-launch after tunneling 2,850 to the 1st/Soto site "break-through" on August 24, 2006. The forecasted revenue operations date for the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension is July 2009.

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