



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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### Senate Committee Holds Hearing on the Future of Homeland Security

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs held a hearing today entitled, "Homeland Security: The Next Five Years." The Committee Chair, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), and Ranking Member, Joe Lieberman (D-CT), presided over the hearing which included testimony from U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff and Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca. Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), a member of the committee, shared his belief that the Department of Homeland Security needs to provide more resources for transit safety. Secretary Chertoff responded that his department has invested in new technology, awareness programs, sensors and video cameras, and additional law enforcement capabilities, including canine dogs. He added that the Department applies a risk-based analysis to the determination of transit security priorities. Sheriff Baca testified that interoperability gaps for first responders must improve and that detection technology for chemical and biological agents must be enhanced. The Sheriff also emphasized his belief that the Joint Force Terrorist Training Centers across America should be institutionalized.

### Metro Orange Line North/South Extension

Earlier today, the *Daily News* inquired about Metro's San Fernando Valley North/South Transit Corridor improvement recommendation being presented to next week's Planning and Programming Committee. The two-part recommendation seeks Board approval to begin environmental and preliminary engineering for a northern extension of the Metro Orange Line to the Chatsworth Metrolink Station, and to continue work with the City of Los Angeles to refine and environmentally clear alternative bus speed improvement projects along key Valley corridors. Staff reported that, through this recommendation, Metro is seeking to take advantage of \$98 million in remaining Traffic Congestion Relief Program funds, which have an allocation funding deadline of January 1, 2009.

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Securing the funding for the possible six-mile extension to Chatsworth from Canoga Park would provide Metro with an excellent opportunity to quickly and efficiently build the bus connection, as Metro already owns the railroad right-of-way. Bus service improvements mentioned in the recommendation could include other dedicated bus lanes on Metro Rapid Lines and the possible widening of roadways and intersections to facilitate the quicker movement of buses. The story is expected to run tomorrow.

## **Mobility 21 Coalition Meeting Recap**

The quarterly meeting of the Mobility 21 Coalition was held earlier today from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Kirk Douglas Theater in Culver City. Presentations were made by Senator Kevin Murray, Assemblyman Paul Koretz, Director Pam O'Connor, Billie Greer (Director of the Los Angeles Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger) and myself. Discussions revolved around the topics of the Metro Mid-City/Exposition Line, the Highway, Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality and Port Security Bond Act of 2006, and other area transportation developments. Over 300 people and reporters from the *Los Angeles Times* and *The Santa Monica Mirror* attended the standing room only event.

The next Mobility 21 Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

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