



Metro

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North Hollywood Development – Proposer’s Conference

The proposer’s conference for developers considering submission of development proposals for Metro’s 16.5 acre site in North Hollywood (NoHo) was held this morning at the El Portal Theater. The conference location was chosen for its proximity to the development site thereby allowing developers a guided first-hand look at the development area, the surrounding neighborhood, and the community’s transportation facilities.

Over 50 members of the development community (including a number of prominent California and national developers) attended the conference. All were given the opportunity to ask questions relating to the proposal submission requirements. The joint Metro/California Redevelopment Authority development solicitation was issued on August 25th and proposals are due by October 25th.

The large development site includes substantial property on both sides of Lankershim Boulevard at the terminus of the Orange and Red Lines. The site allows for the opportunity to connect the two terminals underground through the use of existing knock out panels. The area also contains approximately 2 million square feet of development entitlements and is envisioned as a high-intensity, mixed-use facility that will build on NoHo’s creative arts-oriented character and provide a new “town center” for the community.

Metro Orange Line Safety Update

At this week's Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee Meeting, Metro staff reported that the Orange Line Safety Task Force has implemented all of the safety recommendations for the Metro Orange Line. The task force consists of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and Metro. Staff reported that the last three of the line's 12 photo enforcement cameras are scheduled for installation on September 18th. A 30-day warning enforcement period for the newly-installed photo enforcement cameras will then be in effect. The other nine intersections are already fully operational and motorists are now receiving citations in a similar fashion to other photo-enforced intersections throughout the City of Los Angeles.

Staff also reported to the Committee that Congressman Brad Sherman has earmarked \$500,000 in the House version of the FY07 Federal Transportation Appropriations bill for safety measures at various intersections along the Metro Orange Line. The safety improvements include embedding bright lights in the busway pavement that will flash when buses approach and cross intersections. The lights will be installed where the Metro Orange Line crosses Chandler Boulevard near Ethel Avenue, Van Nuys Boulevard, Sepulveda Boulevard, Woodley Avenue, Balboa Avenue and White Oak Avenue. Lights will also be installed at the following intersections:

- o Burbank Boulevard and Fulton Avenue
- o Victory Boulevard and Topham Street
- o Victory Boulevard and Mason Avenue
- o Victory Boulevard and De Soto Avenue

A mid-block pedestrian crosswalk at Lankershim Boulevard will also be the recipient of the new embedded lights. Since this will be a new use of this lighting system, staff will be coordinating with the City of Los Angeles and the Federal Highway Administration on an experimental application. The FY07 Transportation Appropriations bill has passed the Senate Appropriations Committee but has not yet been scheduled for a hearing before the full Senate. Further movement on the legislation is not expected until after the November elections.

Transportation Solutions Summit Recap

This afternoon, I spoke to participants at the Strategy Institute's Transportation Summit entitled, "Solutions for Relieving Traffic Congestion in Los Angeles and Surrounding Areas." The two-day summit, held at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, drew many industry experts from across the nation and abroad. My presentation focused on long term strategic planning initiatives. I specifically discussed Metro's role in reducing the current traffic congestion in Los Angeles County and I highlighted steps the agency is taking now to prepare for future challenges. I discussed our "mobility tools," how Metro has used technology to our advantage to achieve results, the successes that the agency has achieved in Metro Rapid

and the Orange Line, the area's exciting opportunities for transit-oriented development and our hopes for current system expansion. I also spoke about Metro's role in coordinating freight movement and the agency's strategic partnership with other public and private organizations in enhancing the region's overall transportation network.

Segway Recalls 23,000 Scooters

Earlier today, a reporter with the *Los Angeles Times* interviewed Commander Dan Finkelstein and Robin Blair, a Transportation Planning Manager for Metro, regarding a recall issued by Segway on their human transporters. The company issued the recall stating that software glitches may cause the wheels to reverse, thereby causing injuries to riders. Staff explained that neither Metro nor the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department have experienced any problem with the agency's 18 Segway scooters. Nevertheless, Metro is placing a hold on the machines until a technician from Segway is able to review the software. A story is expected to run tomorrow. A camera crew from CBS Newspath also took video of the Segways for a story on the recall. It is anticipated that the CBS story will air on several television stations around the country later this evening.

Metro's Late Night Workers

La Opinión is preparing a feature story for this weekend which will focus on Spanish speaking women who earn their living by working overnight shifts. As part of the story, the reporter visited Metro's Division 7 in West Hollywood and a rail yard to interview employees who clean the agency's fleet of buses and trains in preparation for their full day of operation.

Customer Satisfaction Survey

La Opinión also requested information today regarding the [Metro Spring Survey on Customer Satisfaction](#) which found that more and more people who have cars available to them are choosing to use the Metro system in lieu of driving. The story is expected to run tomorrow.

Regional Transportation CEO's Committee Meeting Agenda

The Regional Transportation CEO's Committee meeting will be held this Friday, at 11:30 am in the Malibu Conference Room at the Gateway Headquarters building. Agenda items include status reports on the Multi-County Goods Movement Action Plan and the Southern California National Freight Gateway Memorandum of Understanding. A draft Air Quality Management Plan and the

group's coordination with state and federal elected officials will also be discussed.

Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension RAC Ad-Hoc Sub Committee Meeting

The September meeting of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Review Advisory Committee (RAC) Ad-Hoc Sub Committee has been scheduled for Thursday, September 28th at 6:30 p.m. at the Alpine Recreation Center (817 Yale Street) in Chinatown. The meeting agenda will include a discussion on the disposition of artifacts found during excavation of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, and a report on the feasibility of re-interring the remains at Evergreen Cemetery.

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