



Metro

Daily Brief

Thursday September 28, 2006

20060928-0

CEO Roger Snoble

In this issue:

- [House Panel Examines State of Security Training Among Transit Employees](#)
- [Supplemental Call for Projects](#)
- [I-710 EIR/EIS Executive Committee Meeting Recap](#)
- [Metro Orange Line North/South Extension Passes](#)
- [Media Invited to Attend Tomorrow's Mid-City/Exposition Light Rail Groundbreaking Ceremony](#)
- [CEO Contract Extension Covered by Media](#)
- [Of Note](#)

House Panel Examines State of Security Training Among Transit Employees

Earlier today, the House Committee on Homeland Security convened a hearing in Washington entitled "Front Line Defense: Security Training for Mass Transit and Rail Employees". In general, the hearing underscored the need for expanded federal efforts on transit security in general and employee training in particular. Congressman Dan Lungren (R-Gold River), who chaired the hearing, called on officials from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to describe their respective agencies' efforts to facilitate training for transit employees. During the hearing, Metro's employee training efforts were specifically cited on two separate occasions, once by Congressman Lungren and another by a witness from the AFL-CIO.

Other members of the Committee, including Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-Garden Grove) and Congressman Norm Dicks (D-WA) called on TSA and other federal agencies to mandate employee training for all transit properties instead of giving properties the option of providing training. After hearing from a labor union witness that many transit employees, particularly those in small and medium properties, are inadequately trained or not trained at all, Congresswoman Sanchez expressed concern that in the absence of mandatory training, passenger safety may be endangered if subway operators and other front line transit employees are ill-equipped to respond to emergency situations. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Police Chief Polly Hanson, who

testified at the hearing, agreed with the concept of mandatory training for all transit properties but added that such a requirement must be fully funded by the federal government.

Supplemental Call for Projects

Metro received a total of 51 Supplemental Call for Projects applications from 20 local sponsors who requested an estimated \$99.1 million for cost increases. Due by September 27th, the application process provided an opportunity for Call for Projects sponsors to seek additional funding to cover cost increases for projects programmed for funding in FY07 or earlier. The City of Los Angeles submitted 30 applications, the County of Los Angeles submitted three, and 18 additional sponsors submitted one application each.

Metro staff will next review and score the applications with the intent of seeking Metro Board approval for funding recommendations in January 2007. The Metro Board approved initiating the Supplemental Call for Projects process at its May 3, 2006 meeting.

I-710 EIR/EIS Executive Committee Meeting Recap

The I-710 EIR/EIS Executive Committee held its quarterly meeting earlier today. At the meeting, Supervisor Don Knabe and Nancy Ramos, Mayor of the City of Commerce, were elected as Chair and Co-Chair of the Executive Committee, respectively. The committee also received reports on alternative technologies from S. David Freeman, Chair of the POLA Harbor Commission, the adopted Community Participation Framework for the EIR/EIS, near-term air quality strategies, and the EIR/EIS schedule.

The Executive Committee will hold its next meeting in January 2007.

Metro Orange Line North/South Extension Passes

KFWB, KCSN and City News Service have reported on Board action taken earlier today to begin environmental and preliminary engineering work on a north/south extension of the Metro Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley.

Media Invited to Attend Tomorrow's Mid-City/Exposition Light Rail Groundbreaking Ceremony

Earlier today, Metro and the Expo Construction Authority jointly issued an advisory encouraging media outlets to attend tomorrow's groundbreaking

ceremony for the Mid-City/Exposition Light Rail Project. A news release has also been prepared and will be distributed tomorrow.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Exposition Light Rail project will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on the Exposition Boulevard median between West Boulevard and Hillcrest Drive, which is approximately 1/4 mile west of Crenshaw Boulevard.

CEO Contract Extension Covered by Media

City News Service ran a brief wire service story this afternoon on my employment contract, which was announced at this morning's Board meeting. *The Los Angeles Times* also requested and received a copy of my contract following the Board meeting.

Of Note

On September 28th, 1984, the Southern California Rapid Transit District acquired a building on the corner of Wilshire and La Brea for its Metro Rail project. The building, purchased for Metro Rail's original westbound alignment on Wilshire to Fairfax, was designed by famous Los Angeles architect Welton Becket and opened in 1949 as Tilford's Restaurant and Lounge. Welton Becket is best known for designing the LAX Theme Restaurant, the Capitol Records Building, Parker Center and other notable landmark buildings. After the Metro Rail subway alignment was changed due to the presence of methane gas, the building re-opened as a [Metro Customer Service Center](#). The Center, which also houses Metro's Lost and Found Department, currently services over 150,000 patrons annually.

[Metro.net Home](#) | [Press Room](#) | [Projects & Programs](#) | [Meeting Agendas](#) | [Riding Metro](#) | [Metro Library](#)

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
1 Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012-2952
Phone: 213-922-6888
Fax: 213-922-7447
