



Metro

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Infrastructure Bond Update

We understand that the Governor, Speaker and Senate President Pro Tem will be holding a series of joint events around the state to promote the bonds. The Senate Transportation and Housing Committee is in the process of holding informational hearings on the bonds. A first hearing was held in the Bay Area on Wednesday. Government Relations is working on coordinating a hearing at Metro Headquarters on Wednesday, October 18th. Staff will provide more information about this hearing as it becomes available.

The [Field Poll](#) released today shares the numbers for the infrastructure bond package. Although recent polls have shown lower support for Proposition 1A, earlier polls and other internal polling has shown much higher levels of support.

Homeland Security Spending Measure Clears Final Hurdle

On the final day of session before adjourning for the November midterm elections, the House and Senate today cleared the conference report to the FY2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. The \$34.8 billion spending package includes \$175 million for transit security grants, an all-time high since the inception of the transit security grant program several years ago. This year's amount represents an increase of \$25 million over last year's enacted level. In addition, the conference report includes \$770 million in Urban Area Security

Initiative (UASI) grants and \$210 million for port security grants. The Homeland Security Appropriations bill was viewed by House and Senate leadership as one of a handful of "must pass" bills before members of Congress leave Washington this weekend to campaign for re-election.

Senate Panel Clears SAFETEA-LU Corrections Bill

Last night, the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee marked up and approved a measure that makes minor, nonsubstantive technical corrections to last year's surface transportation authorization legislation (SAFETEA-LU). Of relevance to Metro, the corrections bill clarifies that Phase I of the Exposition Light Rail Project is authorized for final design and construction, with Phase II authorized for preliminary engineering. The original SAFETEA-LU legislation did not make such a distinction, nor did it describe the Expo project as consisting of two phases. In addition, the corrections bill designates Metro as the recipient of a bus earmark that was originally intended for Urban Partners' Wilshire-Vermont joint development project. The language essentially allows Metro and Urban Partners to swap funds, which is necessitated by the fact that Urban Partners is not a federally-designated recipient of transit funds.

This evening the full House adopted the Senate version of the corrections bill. The Senate is then expected to clear the House-passed version early Saturday before adjourning for the fall.

Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Project – RAC Ad Hoc Committee Update

Last night, the RAC Ad-Hoc Sub Committee met in Chinatown. The Committee reached a milestone decision to have all the artifacts found re-interred. The Committee listened to exhaustive public comment on the issue and considered re-interring all the artifacts, as well as only re-interring those found with human skeletal remains and providing the isolates for research and/or curation. After debating the issue at last night's meeting a vote was taken to instead re-inter all the artifacts after having had an opportunity to reproduce those artifacts of significant cultural value so that a replica may be made available for further study.

Metro will be consulting with professional Chinese Calligraphers and Translators to transfer the data found on the Chinese burial bricks during excavation at the LA County Crematorium. These efforts will aid in identifying next-of-kin through several outreach efforts such as having a press conference to call attention to the findings, placing advertisements and public notification announcements in several print media and airing public service announcements.

Once the Ad-Hoc Sub Committee has developed a set of recommendations for the respectful re-interment, ceremony and memorial monument of the skeletal human remains and artifacts, they will be presented to the Review Advisory Committee for their concurrence and the RAC will present formally to the Metro Board of Directors.

Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Project – Construction Update

Eastside LRT Constructors have canceled the second full street weekend closure on 1st Street between Anderson and the 101 Freeway. The community was originally notified that 1st Street would be closed for two full weekends from 6pm Friday until 6am Monday morning beginning Friday, September 22, 2006 for the installation of several sanitary sewer lines and storm drains. The Contractor has completed their work ahead of schedule, in one weekend, and will not need to close the street this weekend. The community has been notified that the second full street closure has been canceled.

Expo Line Officially Breaks Ground

Numerous media outlets attended today's Expo Line Construction Project groundbreaking press event to officially kick off construction on the 8.5-mile light rail line from downtown Los Angeles to Culver City. Metro Board Chair Gloria Molina, Supervisors Burke and Yaroslavsky, Mayor Villaraigosa and Directors Fasana, Lowenthal, Parks, O'Connor, Caltrans District Director Doug Failing and I attended today's ceremony.

When completed in 2010, the Expo Line will link downtown to Culver City and will provide an alternative to the heavily congested I-10 Santa Monica freeway. The eight new stations will include state-of-the-art amenities including ticket vending machines, telephones, security cameras, real-time train arrival signs, bike racks, canopy-covered seating and public art. A bike path will parallel the rail line.

Park and Ride lots will also be constructed along the alignment with approximately 1,500 parking spaces provided among three stations at Crenshaw, La Cienega and Washington/National.

All the major local television stations are expected to air stories this afternoon and evening regarding the groundbreaking event. Newspaper and radio reporters also attended the event with stories expected to run tomorrow.

Community Relations is now Regional Communications Programs

Through consolidation of Community Relations and Research & Development a new Regional Communications Programs unit has been formed. This group contains four sections: Project Mitigation, Transit Education Programs, Constituent Program Management and Research & Development. This group operates under the direction of Deputy Executive Officer Lynda Bybee.

Through this restructuring we will continue to provide the same high-quality services and functions but be better aligned to operate more effectively in our complex and dynamic external environment.

Upcoming CEO Meetings and Events

Next week I will be joining Director Bonnie Lowenthal in meeting with Editor Larry Allison, Publisher Mark Stevens and Associate Editor Harold Glicker of the Long Beach Press - Telegram. I will also meet with Bill Witte, President of the Related Companies. In addition, I will be presenting on Institutional and Policy Issues in Transportation at the University of Southern California's School of Policy, Planning and Development. I will also attend the Expo Board and the FAP Executive Committee meetings. Finally, I will attend the 39th Annual Aztec Award Event hosted by The Mexican American Opportunity Foundation.

Of Note

On September 29, 1986 marks the 20th anniversary of breaking ground on the Metro Red Line and the beginning of urban rail's return to Los Angeles. Since then 73 miles of urban fixed guideway and 453 miles of commuter rail have opened to passenger service.

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