



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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## Voters Approve Transportation Bond Measures

Yesterday, California voters passed two propositions that will provide billions of dollars in improvements to the state's transportation network. Proposition 1A, which protects Proposition 42 funds, was adopted with the support of 76.5% of Californians. Proposition 1B, which provides nearly \$20 billion in bonds for transportation improvements, was supported by over 61% of the voters. The bonds will assist Metro in making major investments in various highway and transit projects. To meet the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) January 15, 2007 application deadline for Corridor Mobility Improvement Account projects in particular, the Board will have to act promptly to approve projects meeting the CTC's guidelines.

I spoke today with reporters from the *Los Angeles Times*, *Daily News* and other media outlets. I explained that these bond funds will enable Metro to realize many of the objectives in our Long Range Transportation Plan on a much earlier timeline, and will go a long way toward funding many, but not all, of the needed transportation improvements for the region. Stories are expected to run tomorrow.

In addition to passing California's infrastructure investment measures, voters re-elected Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and 20 new state legislators who will now join the Los Angeles County legislative delegation. Government Relations staff expect to shortly offer briefings on Metro's programs and projects to these individuals, some of whom are returning to Sacramento from other elected service.

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## **CTC Adopts Corridor Mobility Improvement Guidelines**

Earlier today, the CTC adopted Proposition 1B's Corridor Mobility Improvement Account guidelines. The \$4.5 billion statewide program is the first category to be available from the \$19.9 billion Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006 approved yesterday by voters. The funds in the Corridor Mobility Program will be available to the CTC upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act by the Legislature and may be allocated for performance improvements on the state highway system or its major arterials. Proposition 1B mandates that the CTC allocate funds from the Corridor Mobility program to projects after reviewing project nominations submitted by Caltrans and regional agencies like Metro. Nominations for project funding are due by January 15, 2007 and the CTC will adopt the Corridor Mobility Program of projects on February 28, 2007. Metro staff members have worked closely with Caltrans to jointly develop Los Angeles County's proposed \$1.7 billion Corridor Mobility Program nominations. The Board is scheduled to approve our nominations at the December 7<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. If successful, this funding mechanism could provide over \$1 billion for needed mobility improvements on the state highway system in Los Angeles County.

## **Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Tunneling Update**

Lola, the first of the two tunnel boring machines being used for Metro's Gold Line Eastside Extension project, is expected to breakthrough the line's East Portal sometime next week. Staff is preparing for a likely breakthrough on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> with a press conference being planned for 9:00 a.m. the following morning. Board Members and their staff have been placed on alert for this historic event. Additional details will be provided as construction progresses throughout the week.

## **2007 Call for Projects Applicant Workshop**

Metro held a successful 2007 Call for Projects Applicant Workshop for 200 attendees yesterday in the Metro Boardroom. The Workshop was conducted to assist cities, the County, public transit operators and other eligible sponsors in preparing their Call for Projects applications. Break-out sessions were also conducted with modal lead experts to answer technical questions. Over the next two weeks, six subregional workshops have also been scheduled. Additional workshops and technical assistance are also available upon request.

2007 Call for Projects applications are due to Metro by Friday January 26, 2007.

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