



Metro

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Election Upsets Give Democrats Control of U.S. Senate

Two tightly-contested Senate races in Virginia and Montana, both of which were too close to call on election night, have come to a final conclusion. Senators Conrad Burns (R-MT) and George Allen (R-VA) were narrowly defeated by Democratic challengers, thereby handing control of the U.S. Senate to a Democratic majority and producing yet another major shakeup on Capitol Hill.

With today's developments, the Senate lineup for the 110th Congress will consist of 49 Democrats, 49 Republicans and two Independents, both of whom will caucus with the Democrats. A new majority means that Senator Barbara Boxer will become the new chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee, which has jurisdiction over surface transportation programs. As such, Senator Boxer will play a pivotal role in the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU during the next session of Congress. In addition, Senator Dianne Feinstein is in line to become a "cardinal", or subcommittee chair, on the all-important Appropriations Committee. The new landscape promises to generate further changes in committee assignments and chairmanships, which in turn will have implications for transportation in general and Metro in particular. We will keep you apprised of new developments in the weeks ahead.

Orange Grove Avenue & Arroyo Seco Parkway Ribbon-Cutting

Earlier today, the Mayor and City Council of South Pasadena hosted an event to celebrate the opening of the first of four Congestion Relief Projects. This morning's ribbon-cutting celebrated the Orange Grove Avenue and Arroyo Seco Parkway Interchange Improvements Projects. Metro committed \$1.3 million to

address congestion throughout South Pasadena as part of a match to \$46 million in Rogan Bill funding. Director John Fasana attended the event on behalf of Metro and spoke about the success of this intergovernmental project and the promise of further infrastructure improvements to be funded by Tuesday's passage of Proposition 1B.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Next week, I will be meeting individually with City of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Culver City Councilmember Carol Gross, and Directors Bonnie Lowenthal, Ara Najarian, and Bernard Parks. I will also attend an awards dinner hosted by the Los Angeles Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar, where Metro's Chief Planning Officer, Carol Inge, will be honored as the Woman of the Year. Finally, I will be participating in the Regionwide CEO Meeting.

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