

Daily Brief

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Press Briefing on Metro Orange Line Pavement Repairs

Earlier today, Media Relations provided a press briefing for the *Daily News* and the *Los Angeles Times* to detail our joint efforts with our contractor to repair portions of deteriorating asphalt paving on the Metro Orange Line. Staff reported that early cracking on the western end of the transitway prompted Metro to retain a consultant to conduct deflectometer pavement durability tests along the remainder of the transitway. Deflectometer testing is a method of evaluating the remaining life of existing roadway paving.

When later presented with the consultant's findings, the contractor rejected the use of the deflectometer as a methodology. There remain numerous other issues of dispute with the contractor, as well. For example, there is currently a disagreement over a series of tests recently performed on the transitway involving soil strength characteristics, soil compaction and rubberized asphalt paving along several portions of the alignment. Both parties have agreed to share up to \$1.5 million in costs for making immediate temporary repairs to the pavement, with each party retaining the right to recover full remuneration from the other.

These matters may require resolution through the use of an independent Dispute Resolution Board composed of outside industry experts. This type of dispute resolution mechanism is already provided for under the existing contract. Metro has not yet granted the contractor final acceptance on the project, and currently retains approximately \$5.8 million of the contract budget. Stories are expected to run tomorrow.

Tournament of Roses Media Event

Director John Fasana, Gerald Francis and I welcomed the 2007 Tournament of Roses Queen and her court to Union Station this morning to promote Metro Rail service to this year's parade festivities. The agency will be operating all Metro Rail lines around the clock on New Year's Eve to enable people from throughout Los Angeles County to attend the parade. We will be running additional service as needed on the Metro Gold Line to accommodate the large crowds expected this year. Several media outlets attended the media event, with stories expected to run in the coming days.

Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Construction Notice

Media Relations released a press release today regarding construction activities for the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension project. The release notes that street restoration and widening work is currently being conducted on the south side of Woods Avenue at the Third Street intersection. As a result, Woods Avenue will remain closed until further notice.

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