



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

**Monday, August 29, 2005**

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**CEO Roger Snoble**

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## **Rising Fuel Prices and Possible Fuel Shortages**

With the rising fuel prices and possible fuel shortages caused by Hurricane Katrina, staff has contacted our fuel suppliers. Southern California Gas Company, our natural gas supplier, indicates that they do not anticipate a shortage in natural gas for their Southern California customers. We will however, experience a significant price increase effective September 1, 2005. Natural gas will increase from \$0.82 per therm to over \$1.02 per therm. If this rate remains unchanged, we anticipate a budget variance of \$10.7 million, which is a significant risk to our operating budget.

Gasoline and diesel supplies remain plentiful. Prices, however, continue to rise. Staff will continue to monitor fuel supplies and prices, and will keep the Board informed of any changes.

## **Metro Gold Line Electrical Problems**

Media Relations responded to a number of media calls concerning an electrical problem that shut down one of the two tracks on the Metro Gold Line in Pasadena last night around 6 p.m. The electrical problem occurred on a power line between the Lake Avenue Station and the Memorial Park Station. Trains were single tracked around the problem, causing the frequency of trains on the Metro Gold Line to run every 20 minutes in peak periods instead of every 10 minutes. Metro crews are currently working on restoring power to the area and

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should complete their work by noon tomorrow. A news alert was placed on Metro's Web page at [http://www.metro.net/service\\_note829.htm](http://www.metro.net/service_note829.htm) and media were notified to alert passengers of the delay in service.

### **Metro Orange Line Update**

Construction is continuing on a six-day per week, ten-hour per day basis. Primary tasks are completion of landscaping and fencing; completion of bikepath near I-405 Freeway; architectural and signage at stations; and final activation of busway intersection signalization, signage and striping. Major efforts are also underway at the Sepulveda Park and Ride.

The Construction team is attempting to complete Milestone 4B, the busway from Warner Center to Van Nuys Boulevard, to allow testing of buses over the full length of the alignment. Test buses are now operating in the late afternoon and evening along the eastern portion of the project from Van Nuys Blvd. to the Metro Red Line Station in North Hollywood at Chandler Blvd and Lankershim Blvd.

The Bus Operations Control center on the 6th floor of One Gateway has commenced 24-hour per day, seven-day per week monitoring of the station areas via closed circuit television.

### **Metro Liner Bus Display At Sherman Oaks Galleria**

Media Relations issued a media advisory inviting the news media to a sneak peak of the new Metro Liner 60-foot bus to be used on the Metro Orange Line. The bus will be on display at the Sherman Oaks Galleria tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### **Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board Meeting**

For this month's agenda, the consent calendar calls for a request for proposal for general counsel services. Under the general board action items, staff will be presenting updates to the administrative code that incorporate last month's discussions, approval of the funding MOU agreement with the LACMTA, and a negotiated design-build request for proposal. Under general board discussions, proposal for office space requirements has been agendaized.

Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 2005. 2:00 p.m. and will be held at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Board of Supervisors Hearing Room 381B.

### **FTA Quarterly Meeting**

On August 31, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Gateway Building, my staff and I will be

conducting the Quarterly Review Meeting with senior Federal Transit Administration (FTA) staff. Topics include the status of Metro's major construction projects, such as the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, the Metro Orange Line and the Exposition Light Rail Transit Project. Other areas, which will be discussed, are Metro and FTA organizational changes, safety and security issues, legal issues, and other related matters. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Boudreau, Deputy Executive Officer of Program Management, at (213) 922-2474.

### **Metro's Compressed Natural Gas Bus Fleet**

The Daily News (Santa Clarita Edition) inquired today regarding Metro's fleet of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses. Santa Clarita Transit Authority recently purchased 15 CNG buses to be placed in service. The reporter was briefed on Metro's experience with its CNG fleet, operating costs, and the number of CNG buses Metro operates. A story is expected to run tomorrow.

### **Update on Contract Bus Services Labor Issue - Day 29**

Transportation Concepts Inc. (TCI) made 100% on-time rollout on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday morning. There were eight drivers and two teamster representatives on the picket lines this morning. There were no incidents between the TCI operators and picketers.

### **Reserve the Dates**

#### Annual Night of the Stars Banquet – Friday, September 16, 2005

Attend Metro's annual Night of Stars banquet where we honor our top outstanding Operators and Mechanics. The event is scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2005 and will be held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel located at 404 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles. Reception begins at 6:00 p.m., dinner and awards presentation from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

#### Ninth Annual Traffic Reporters' Luncheon and Golden Pylon Awards – Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Attend the Ninth Annual Traffic Reporters' Luncheon and Golden Pylon Awards where the five county transportation agencies in Southern California, including Metro, honor traffic reporters who tirelessly promote ridesharing and the use of carpool lanes to ease congestion in the southland. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 11:00 am and will be held at Maggiano's Restaurant in The Grove on West Third Street. Invitations containing additional information will be sent early next week.

#### Mobility 21 – Coalition Meeting – Friday, October 7, 2005

Join the Mobility 21 Coalition in the San Fernando Valley and experience "The Metro Orange Line: From Concept to Reality" with LA County Supervisor and LACMTA Board Member Zev Yaroslavsky. The meeting is scheduled for Friday,

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October 7, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and will be held at the LA Valley College Monarch Hall. Preview tours of the Orange Line alignment will be offered following the meeting. A "Save the Date" flyer is attached with additional information.

Mobility 21 – LA County Moving Together: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Countywide Transportation Summit – Monday, November 14, 2005

Join transportation, business, community leaders and elected officials to build consensus and take action to address Los Angeles County's transportation challenges. The summit is scheduled for Monday, November 14, 2005 at 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. and will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center. This year's summit will focus on transportation's role in a vibrant economy, quality of life and homeland security. For more information visit <http://www.mobility21coalition.com/> Transportation – Moving Our Economy, Improving Our Quality of Life, and Keeping Us Safe.

### **CEO Upcoming Meetings and Events**

This week I will be attending the FTA New Starts Projects Quarterly Review meeting, Project Restore media event, and the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board meeting.

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