



Metro

Daily Brief

Wednesday January 10, 2007
20070110-0

CEO Roger Snoble



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Senator Dianne Feinstein Joins Powerful Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) has been named to the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation & Housing and Urban Development. The Subcommittee is charged with funding highway and transit projects throughout the nation. In fact, Metro receives hundreds of millions of dollars through the annual appropriation bill adopted by this subcommittee. The Chair of the Subcommittee will be Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and the Ranking Member will be Senator Kit Bond (R-MO).

LAUSD Board of Education Approves Ramona Opportunity High School Funding

Yesterday, the LAUSD Board of Education approved \$6,109,106 in additional funds to complete the funding plan for the reconstruction of Ramona Opportunity High School. The Board also approved the land exchange for the site of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Indiana Street Light Rail Transit Station. The total funding plan of \$47,218,212 which was approved by the Metro Board of Directors on December 7, 2006, now consists of a contribution of \$15,109,106 from LAUSD and \$32,109,106 from Metro.

Beverly Hills Mass Transit Committee Final Recommendations

The Beverly Hills Mass Transit Committee presented its [final report and recommendations](#) to their City Council last night. The Committee unanimously:

- Acknowledged the need and benefits of a Westside Subway Extension to serve the City of Beverly Hills.
- Recommended a Wilshire Boulevard alignment extending from Wilshire/Western and continuing to Century City and beyond.
- Noted their preference for remaining under Wilshire then heading southwest under Santa Monica to connect to Century City, rather than under commercial and residential properties.
- Recommended two stations in Beverly Hills -- one at or near Beverly Drive & Wilshire, and one at or near La Cienega & Wilshire.
- Determined that the recommended stations "appear feasible as to the construction of the stations and manageable with respect to operations, security and potential disruption during the construction phase."

The full report provides background as to how the Committee arrived at these recommendations. While the Committee was only charged with recommending alignment and stations, the report also summarizes their findings on related issues such as security and crime. There was no minority report.

The City Council accepted the report, and thanked and disbanded the Committee. They further directed that the matter be agendaized in the near future so the City Council can discuss, take public input, and develop a formal City position on a possible subway extension.

Wilshire Customer Center Media Event

Earlier today, Directors O'Connor, Burke and Fleming joined me to celebrate the renovation of Metro's Wilshire Customer Center. The facility, located at the intersection of La Brea and Wilshire, serves over 50,000 patrons each month and sells over 600,000 Metro passes per year. The center is also home to Metro's Lost and Found Department.

Numerous media outlets attended today's event including Channels 2, 7, 9, and 18, *La Opinión*, *Korea Times*, *Chinese Daily News*, LAist and CNN Radio. Stories are expected to run today and tomorrow. A story on Metro's Lost and Found department also appeared today in The Daily News.

Media Inquiries Regarding Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Proposed

Budget

The *Daily News* and the *Los Angeles Times* inquired today regarding the Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed state budget. Metro's Government Relations explained to the reporters that we are extremely concerned about the proposal's impacts. Upon initial review, it appears that the budget will take precious dollars away from current public transportation services serving millions of riders including students and the disabled. Staff emphasized that this is a proposed budget and that in the months ahead, we look forward to working with both the Governor and the State Legislature to develop a program that will continue to improve transportation in Los Angeles.

Of Note

On this date in 1945, Henry Huntington's heirs sold our predecessor company Los Angeles Railway (1911-1945), its routes, and assets to Los Angeles Transit Lines (LATL, 1945-1958), another privately owned company. LATL continued to operate the extensive urban motorbus and streetcar system while slowly converting all but five streetcar rail lines to bus routes. The company also operated 110 electric trolley buses along two routes. LATL's routes and assets were later acquired by the first publicly governed transit agency, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority, in 1958. By 1963, the remaining 5 rail lines and 2 electric trolley bus lines had been converted to bus lines, leaving Los Angeles without urban rail service until the opening of the Blue Line in 1990.

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