



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble



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## Senate Transportation and Housing Committee Named

Earlier today, Senate President pro Tem Don Perata (D-Oakland) named members to the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee. Senator Alan Lowenthal (D- Long Beach) will continue to Chair the Committee. A majority of the members represent the Southern California region. The committee includes:

Senator Alan Lowenthal (Chair)  
Senator Tom McClintock (R- Thousand Oaks)  
Senator Roy Ashburn (R- Bakersfield)  
Senator Gilbert Cedillo (D – Los Angeles)  
Senator Ellen Corbett (D-San Leandro)  
Senator Robert Dutton (R – Rancho Cucamonga)  
Senator Christine Kehoe (D – San Diego)  
Senator Jenny Oropeza (D – Long Beach)  
Senator Joe Simitian (D- Palo Alto)  
Senator Tom Torlakson (D- Antioch)  
Senator Bob Margett (R-Arcadia)

## Bill to Boost Funding for Amtrak Introduced In U.S. Senate

Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey has introduced legislation (S.294) that would authorize \$19.2 billion in federal funds for Amtrak over six years. Amtrak's

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most recent authorization from the U.S. Congress expired in 2002. The Lautenberg bill would authorize \$3.2 billion annually for Amtrak -- funds that would be used to revitalize and reform America's passenger railroad provider. Language similar to S.294 was adopted 93-6 by the Senate last year, but was blocked by the House of Representatives. The Lautenberg bill has been referred to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee for review. To date, no hearings to consider Amtrak related bills have been scheduled in either the Senate or House.

### **Passing of Former Metro Board Member James Cragin**

It is with much regret that I inform you of the passing of former Metro Board Member, James Cragin. Our condolences, prayers and thoughts will be with his family.

Director Cragin served on this Board for eight years, from 1993 to 2001. During his tenure, he spent tireless hours working to improve transportation for Los Angeles County. He was a strong supporter of Metro's Citizens Advisory Committee and often attending meetings to provide them with guidance and direction. He also served on our Operations Committee and was instrumental in adopting our Clean Air Initiative and Policy. This policy is still in place today, exemplified by the fact that more than 2,300 alternative fueled Metro buses are now in operation.

Metro is a better agency for having known and worked with Director Cragin – a dedicated transit leader. He will be sorely missed. I understand that funeral services will begin with a Rosary at 7:00 p.m. this Friday evening at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Gardena. The funeral will be held Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. at the same location and he will be buried at Holy Cross Cemetery.

### **Narcotics and Counterfeit Pass Arrests at Westlake/MacArthur Park Station**

Yesterday, Los Angeles Sheriff's Deputies conducted a Counterfeit Operation at the Metro Red Line's West Lake/MacArthur Park Station, specifically targeting the illegal sale of Day Passes. Deputies had received information about counterfeit operations occurring in the area and have conducted several searches at photo studios in the area. During yesterday's exercises, deputies arrested one gentleman found in possession of four bags of marijuana, ten of cocaine and nine of a crystal-type substance resembling methamphetamine (see below). The day was deemed a success as additional leads were developed for future operations.

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## **Universal City Joint Development**

The *Los Angeles Times* and the *Daily News* attended today's Planning and Programming and Finance and Budget Committee meetings. The *Daily News* may run a story tomorrow regarding the Universal City Joint Development Project discussed by the Committee. Discussions at the Finance and Budget Committee regarding Metro's operational deficit may also spark news stories.

## **Metro/OCTA Coordination Working Group Agenda**

The Metro/OCTA Coordination Working Group is scheduled to meet this Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the City Manager's Conference Room on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor of Long Beach City Hall.

At this meeting, the group will review and discuss passenger (Metrolink, Coaster and Amtrak) and freight service (BNSF Railway) operating on the Los Angeles-San Diego Corridor (LOSSAN). Other proposals for rail service between Orange and Los Angeles Counties including the west Santa Ana branch of the Pacific Electric right-of-way and high speed connections between Orange County and Union Station will also be reviewed.

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