



Metro

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CEO Roger Snoble



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Democratic Spending Plan Fully Funds Highway and Transit Programs

Last night, the House Democratic leadership unveiled a sweeping appropriations plan for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2007. The measure (H.J. Res. 20) funds federal agencies and programs that were unfunded as a result of unfinished appropriations bills from the previous Congress. In a major victory for Metro and the entire transit industry, transportation programs fared well in the House plan. The House and Senate leadership essentially overruled the Appropriations Committee and opted to honor the transportation funding guarantees for FY 2007 established in SAFETEA-LU instead of freezing spending at FY06 levels. During the behind-the-scenes struggle over whether to limit highway and transit programs to FY06 levels or make an exception by fully funding them at FY07 levels, Metro actively contributed to the debate and strongly urged the leadership to adhere to the FY07 levels authorized in law. This successful lobbying effort prevented the loss of over \$82 million in federal formula funds for Los Angeles County.

Overall, the \$463.5 billion package funds the federal-aid highway program at the fully authorized FY07 amount of \$39.08 billion. Meanwhile, programs under the jurisdiction of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will receive \$8.98 billion, the exact amount authorized by SAFETEA-LU. Furthermore, a provision in the

legislation pertaining to the New Starts program states that funds appropriated for New Starts shall be allocated at the discretion of the FTA for projects authorized in SAFETEA-LU. Based on conversations with FTA officials, it is clear that the Administration intends to fully honor projects with existing Full Funding Grant Agreements, such as the Metro Gold Line Eastside Project. As a result of this commitment, combined with language contained within the spending package, Metro is likely to receive its full FY07 appropriation of \$100 million for Eastside.

As promised by Democratic leaders last month, the legislation contains no earmarks. H.J. Res. 20 will be brought to the House floor on Wednesday.

Homeland Security Chairman Places Rail Security at Top of Agenda

Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, laid out a sweeping agenda for the coming months, saying the first big piece of legislation to come before his panel will focus on beefing up security on passenger and freight rail systems. Thompson said his committee's legislation would establish federal standards and oversight for transit systems as well as freight rail systems. "We're going to bring the federal government into it to provide the necessary direction," Thompson told reporters. "We absolutely need to move toward having the federal government coming up with some uniform approaches for rail security." He stopped short of saying what kind of mandates the federal government might establish for rail systems, such as a required screening of passengers. However, he indicated the federal government needs to have a stronger presence within rail systems, meaning more personnel, cameras and K-9 units. The Homeland Security Committee will likely produce legislation within the next six weeks. Metro's advocacy team has already engaged members of Congress on this issue and will keep you informed as new developments arise.

Regional Light Rail Transit Connector RFP Released

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Regional Connector project was posted on Metro.net yesterday. The RFP is for an alternatives analysis (AA), with the option to expand into draft and final Environmental Impact Statements and Reports if the Board so approves. The AA will include a variety of at-grade, elevated, and subway alternatives, plus a no build option. The Regional Connector could be a light rail connection linking the Blue, Expo and Green Line networks with the Gold Pasadena and Eastside lines. Operationally a light rail connector allows Metro to consolidate yard and maintenance facilities for all lines, as well.

All questions about this project should be directed to Metro's Contract

Administrator, Ed Kichi at (213) 922-3647, during the blackout period (01/29-03/20).

National Contract Management Association President Rear Admiral Lenn Vincent Speaks at Metro

National Contract Management Association (NCMA) President Rear Admiral Lenn Vincent (USN retired) was the keynote speaker at the Association's Los Angeles Gateway Chapter meeting held last Thursday (January 25th) in the Windsor Conference Room.

Speaking to contract managers and directors from Metro, the Metropolitan Water District, the Los Angeles Unified School District and other local agencies, Admiral Vincent shared with the attendees his sense that pending acquisition policy in Washington, D.C. may become more rigorous in the upcoming months. He also emphasized the growing importance for agencies and enterprises to develop and maintain a well-educated professional contract management staff as a core competency due to the critical decision making benefits that come from these experienced professionals. In recent years, contract management staff has increasingly been asked to shoulder a broad spectrum of agency/enterprise-wide operations in their roles as professional business advisors seeking operational efficiency.

Admiral Vincent noted that there are currently no industry wide programs aimed at mitigating the loss of corporate knowledge in the field of contract management which is being experienced as the current work force reaches retirement age. Admiral Vincent pointed out that CalPoly Pomona and the University's cadre of young professionals who are about to enter the work force with degrees in contract management offers a much-needed resource.

NCMA is a 20,000 member professional association for individuals involved in the field of procurement /contract management.

Metro's Roger Moliere to Participate in *California Real Estate Journal* Roundtable

Metro's Chief of Real Property Management and Development, Roger Moliere, will participate in a [roundtable discussion on "Smart Growth in Los Angeles"](#) this week hosted by the *California Real Estate Journal*. The discussion will be held on Wednesday, January 31st from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Journal's conference room at 949 East Second Street in downtown Los Angeles. Other participants include: Edward Casey, a managing partner at Weston Benshoof; Lewis G. Feldman, the Los Angeles Office Chairman, Public Finance and Public/Private Development Head for Goodwin Proctor; Gail Goldberg, the City

of Los Angeles' Director of Planning; Lesley M. Love, the Vice President and Regional Manager for Fremont Investment & Loan; Philip A. Powers, a Senior Vice President and Commercial Real Estate Lending Group Manager at Security Pacific Bank; Alan Pullman, principal at Studio One Eleven at Perkowitz+Ruth Architects; and Renata Simril, the Senior Vice President of Development at Forest City Development.

Proposed Service Changes in the San Fernando Valley

Earlier today, the *Los Angeles Daily News* inquired about February's public hearings on various Metro Bus service modifications being proposed for the San Fernando Valley. The reporter was told that the Metro San Fernando Valley Service Sector has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, February 7th. Metro patrons are encouraged to attend to offer input on the proposed changes. Service sector staff explained to the reporter that while some service is proposed to be cancelled due to low productivity and budget concerns in light of a projected operating deficit, two new lines are being proposed in the San Fernando Valley. Other lines are proposed to be shortened to improve on-time performances as part of implementing Metro Connections. Media Relations distributed a [news release](#) last week announcing the five upcoming public hearings at all the service sectors. The story is expected to run this weekend.

Metro's Call for Projects

A reporter with the *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* inquired today regarding applications received for the 2007 Call for Projects. Staff noted that the application deadline was last Friday (January 26th) and that the agency has received over 400 applications for various transit projects. Staff is currently logging in all the applications received and will begin the evaluation process shortly. The Board will act on funding recommendations in July.

Of Note

On this date in 1993, Metro Red Line Segment I opened carrying passengers 4.4 miles between Union Station and MacArthur Park. The segment was Los Angeles' first modern subway. Initial ridership was 18,000 boardings a day, with 5 million riders carried in the segment's first year of operation.

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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
1 Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012-2952
Phone: 213-922-6888
Fax: 213-922-7447
