



Metro

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CEO Roger Snoble



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CTC Approves \$167 Million Repayment to Los Angeles County for the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension

Earlier today, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved Metro Countywide Planning and Development's request for repayment of \$167 million in local funds advanced in lieu of Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) funds for the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension project. The TCRP funds were not available when requested in 2005 due to the State's General Fund deficit. The repayment was made possible by voter approval of Proposition 1A last November and the CTC's May 2005 Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) authorization. With the LONP authorization, Metro was able to keep the project on schedule without the benefit of TCRP funds. The \$167 million repayment represents the final TCRP funding action from the State against a total \$236 million TCRP funding commitment. The CTC previously approved \$69 million in TCRP allocations for Metro.

Metro will be putting the State's \$167 million repayment to Los Angeles County to work immediately by replacing the local funds that were used to help build the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. The advanced local funds used included funds that were originally programmed to the Interstate 5 project from the Orange County Line to Interstate 605 and a cancelled cycle of the Call for Projects.

2007 Call for Projects Applications Submitted

Last Friday, January 26th, was the deadline for submitting project applications for the 2007 Call for Projects. Metro received a total of 402 applications.

The transportation modal category breakdown is as follows:

Regional Surface Transportation Improvements *	119
Signal Synchronization	44
Transit Capital	61
Bikes	35
Pedestrian Improvements	61
Transportation Demand Management	30
Transportation Enhancement Activities	41
Supplemental Mode	11
Total	402

* Goods Movement applications are submitted through the RSTI modal category. By mid February, staff will be able to report on the number of applications that were received for these types of projects.

As a comparison to past Call for Projects: Metro received 414 applications in the 1997 Call; 437 in the 199 Call, 359 in the 2001 Call; and 363 in the 2003 Call.

Los Angeles City Council Approves Chinatown/Blossom Plaza Mixed Use Development near Metro Gold Line Station

Yesterday, the Los Angeles City Council approved a variety of actions moving the Chinatown/Blossom Plaza Mixed-Use Development and Inter-Modal Transportation Facilities Project forward after many years of negotiations. The project is located at 900 North Broadway in Chinatown (site of the former Little Joe's Restaurant) and will include a pedestrian walkway between the elevated Metro Gold Line Chinatown Station and Broadway. The joint development will also provide a cultural plaza, parking structure, 169 residential housing units and more than 40,000 square feet of commercial and retail space. Construction costs for the public-owned portion of the Blossom Plaza Public-Private Parking Structure and Inter-Modal Elements total \$17.6 million. Metro contributed \$4 million from the Call for Projects in an effort to improve multimodal links between the Plaza and the Metro Gold Line. The project is scheduled to begin construction in June 2008 with completion anticipated for June 2009.

Go Metro to See the Harlem Globetrotters

Earlier this morning, Metro hosted a media event with the world famous Harlem Globetrotters, who played ball with Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis in the East Portal area of Union Station. This was another example of our continuing campaign to encourage people to leave their cars at home and take Metro, as well as a way to thank our loyal customers by offering them \$4 discounts on tickets to Globetrotters' exhibition games on February 17th and 19th. Numerous media outlets attended today's event, including Channels 4, 5 and 7, the *Los Angeles Times*, Reuters, the *Downtown News* and Sipa Press and Splash Press photo agencies. Media relations also distributed a [news release](#) announcing the discount offer to metro patrons. Stories are expected to run later today.

The Future of Transit in Los Angeles County

A reporter with the *L.A. Independent* newspaper also inquired today regarding Metro's Long Range Transportation Plan. Staff told the reporter that we are currently updating the Plan and it is scheduled to be considered by the Board later this year. The reporter is writing a story on the projections of population growth in Los Angeles County over the next 20 years. In response, staff noted that the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension and the Mid-City/Exposition Line are currently under construction. In addition, by 2008 we will have a total of 28 Metro Rapid Lines throughout the County. Additional transit improvements on area highways and funding from November's recently passed bonds should go a long way towards aiding Metro's efforts to relieve traffic congestion.

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