



Metro

Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble



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Man Accused in Subway Mercury Spill Pleads Not Guilty

Yesterday, the suspect accused in the mercury spill at the Pershing Square Metro Rail station in December pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor charges. Armando Bustamante Miranda, 27, was charged with one count of releasing an offensive or harmful substance in a public area and carrying a toxic material in a public transit facility. The charges were levied by Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo's Environmental Justice Unit after the results of the investigation (which concluded that the spill was not a terrorist act) were forwarded to him.

If convicted, Bustamante Miranda could face up to a year in jail and a \$2,250 fine. The suspect is currently being held on \$45,000 bail. According to authorities, he also faces an unrelated parole violation.

Senate Panel Clears Transit Security Measure

Yesterday, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs unanimously approved [a bill to authorize \\$3.5 billion in transit security grants through 2010](#). The measure would authorize monies for public transit agencies to fund capital security projects, operational assistance, and research programs.

These funds would be subject to future appropriations.

The capital security assistance money could be used by transit agencies to fund tunnel protection, perimeter defenses, operations controls protection, explosive detection systems, surveillance, communications and emergency response equipment and other capital improvements. Operational security assistance funds could be used for security training and drills for public transportation employees, public awareness campaigns, and canine patrol teams.

The bill is expected to be considered by the Senate later this spring. A companion House bill is expected to emerge from the House Homeland Security Committee in the coming weeks.

Gateway Cities Service Sector Public Hearing Recap

Last night, the Gateway Cities Service Sector held a public hearing on proposed June 2007 service changes and route restructuring in the area. The event was attended by approximately 40 customers, 19 of whom offered public comment. No news media attended the hearing.

The overwhelming majority of the comment was in response to the cancellation of Line 275 which runs from Whittier to the Los Cerritos Center. In response, a representative from Norwalk Transit indicated the agency's support of the line's cancellation and noted that Norwalk Transit is preparing to take over the service. Norwalk Transit is hoping to include the line's hours in their FY08 FAP allocation and to obtain four new buses for its operations through Metro's Call for Projects. Line 275 has been the focus of numerous adjustments over the past two years in an attempt to make it more productive.

Gateway Cities' staff will now review, research and discuss all the comments received last night along with those submitted by phone, mail, email and through the customer service center. Staff will then prepare responses and final recommendations for the Governance Council to review and act upon at the sector's next regularly scheduled meeting: Thursday, March 8th at 2:00 p.m. at the Gas Company in Downey.

South Bay Service Sector Public Hearing Recap

Earlier today, the South Bay Service Sector also held their public hearing on the proposed June 2007 service changes and route restructuring. The event was attended by approximately 40 individuals, 18 of whom offered public comment. Also, in attendance were: The Bus Riders Union, (BRU) Southern California Transit Advocates, United Transportation Union representatives and local City Council deputies. The majority of the speakers were transit riders familiar and

knowledgeable with Metro's services. South Bay's staff is currently evaluating the public comment and suggested alternatives received to date for review by the Service Sector Governance Council at its next meeting: Friday, March 9th at the Carson Division.

Media Follow-Up on Hollywood Walk of Fame Repairs

This morning, Channel 7 broadcasted an interview with Marc Littman about the cracking of the Hollywood Walk of Fame. When asked if the Metro subway caused the sidewalk cracking, Littman replied that this claim is false. Based on core samples taken by the City of Los Angeles' engineering staff and a review by a terrazzo flooring consultant, it has been determined that the cracks were caused by heat, insufficient expansion joints and a concrete base with varying degrees of thickness.

In portions of the interview that were not aired, Littman noted that the subway tunnels run under the street, not the sidewalk and that the tops of the tunnels are 30-feet below the surface. Additionally, several years ago Metro tested and found negligible subsidence in the area. In fact, the Walk of Fame was cracking even before the subway was constructed in Hollywood. There is no underground river at Hollywood/Highland as community activists claim. Mr. Littman also reiterated that Metro is assisting in an effort to repair the cracks so that Hollywood Boulevard would look grand in time for the Oscars.

Paid Ads Coming to Metro Rail

The first ads to be sold under two pilot programs authorized by the Board last year will soon be appearing on Metro's rail system. McDonalds has purchased ad space on the exterior of all Green Line cars during the month of March, and inside the 7th/Metro and North Hollywood Metro Red Line stations during the months of March and April, respectively. In addition, the film "Shrek 3" has purchased a display inside the Metro Red Line's Universal City Station during April, while Hows Market will have ads in the North Hollywood Station in June. These installations will generate a total of \$136,000 in revenue for Metro. Because these initial displays will also help to promote the availability of Metro Rail advertising space, sales are expected to increase in the near future.

Metro's Special 50-Cent Fare Program

Media Relations distributed a news release today announcing a 50-Cent Fare Program for the week of February 18-24. A total of 18 Metro Bus lines throughout Los Angeles County will offer patrons special 50-cent fares in an effort to promote public transit and to encourage the use of public transportation

as an alternative to driving solo. Over 50 major destinations including job centers, schools and universities, shopping centers, cultural centers, museums and transportation hubs are accessible via the designated lines. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has scheduled a press event regarding the special fare for next Thursday at 1:00 p.m. at UCLA to highlight one of the lines in particular -- Metro Rapid Line 761 which operates from the San Fernando Valley to Westwood.

Upcoming CEO Meetings and Events

Next week, I will be meeting individually with Board Chair Gloria Molina, Supervisors Michael Antonovich, Yvonne Burke, Don Knabe, and Zev Yaroslavsky, Councilman Bernard Parks, and Directors John Fasana, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ara Najarian, and Pam O' Connor. In addition, I will be meeting with S. Jaipal Reddy, the Indian Minister for Urban Development and Roberto Assereto, Giancarlo Fantappie, and Andrea Pepi of AnsaldoBreda SpA. I will also be participating in the Hollywood & Vine Groundbreaking Event and the General Managers' Group Meeting. Finally, I will be interviewed by a reporter from *US News and World Report* regarding traffic congestion in the Los Angeles region.

Next Week's Procurement Postings

IFB for Division 11 Storage Building Fire Sprinkler System

Next week, Metro will post an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure a fire sprinkler system for the Division 11 Blue Line Storage Building in Long Beach. The procurement blackout period is expected to run from February 14 through April 12, 2007.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Roger Mays, Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-7215.

IFB for Paper Products

Metro will also release an IFB to procure paper products for Metro's Print Shop. This paper stock is expected to support the shop's day-to-day operations. The procurement blackout period is expected to run from February 16 through May 7, 2007.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Base Richardson, Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-4596.

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