



Metro

Daily Brief

Wednesday February 14, 2007
20070214-0

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Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Announces Transportation Related Appointments

Earlier today, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced a series of appointments relating to transportation – all of which will have a significant impact on Metro's working relationships with Sacramento. First, the Governor made nominations to three seats on the California Transportation Commission. The Governor re-appointed John Chalker of San Diego, and appointed new members Jim Earp of the California Alliance for Jobs, and Carl Guardino of the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group. This means that former Congressman Esteban Torres was not re-appointed and it also means that Los Angeles County is now only represented by one of nine seats on the CTC.

The CTC will play a principal role in the implementation of Proposition 1B. Consequently, these appointments will have an impact on Metro's strategy as this program moves forward. It should be noted, however, that many of the bonds programs are subject to further legislation which will impact the role and discretion of the CTC.

The Governor also appointed Dale Bonner as the new Secretary of Business Transportation and Housing. Mr. Bonner has held various positions in state government in recent years and also served as a member of former Governor Pete Wilson's Administration.

Congressional Committee Examines Rail and Mass Transit Security Issues

The U.S. House of Representatives' Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection held a hearing yesterday entitled, "Rail and Mass Transit Security: Industry and Labor Perspectives." Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MS) highlighted the fact there were over 250 terrorist attacks worldwide against rail targets between 1995 and 2005, resulting in almost 900 deaths and over 6,000 injuries. Despite these figures, Chairman Thompson noted that there is a disparity between federal spending on aviation security (\$24 billion since 2001) and spending on transit security (\$549 million since 2001). Chairman Thompson highlighted this continued trend in the FY 2008 Transportation Security Administration Budget (TSA). The TSA's entire surface transportation budget is less than 1% of the amount in the President's budget for aviation security. Metro's Government Relations staff will continue to urge Congress to provide adequate funds for transit security programs in the coming months.

American Heart Association Heart Health for Women Event

Early this morning in the East Portal of Union Station, Metro joined the American Heart Association in celebrating heart health for women by urging customers and others to participate in the Metro Fit program, which encourages exercise as a path to good heart health. City Council Member Wendy Greuel and Metro's Chief Operations Officer, Carolyn Flowers, together urged women to take care of themselves through exercise. Ms. Flowers noted that Metro riders in particular can easily build a few minutes of exercise into their daily routines as they walk to bus and rail stations across Los Angeles County. Numerous media outlets attended the event, including Channels 4, 7 and 62, Telemundo, KFWB and Metro Networks radio. Stories are expected to run throughout the day.

San Fernando Valley Bus Line Service Changes

The California State University, Northridge's Daily Sundial newspaper inquired today about Metro's proposed cancellation of Metro Bus Line 68, which provides service to the University's campus. Metro San Fernando Service Sector staff reported that the line was determined to be the least productive line operating in the Valley, thereby making it a prime candidate for service reduction and/or elimination. The line receives 20 boardings per revenue service hour, with average passenger loads of just eight to 10 riders. Other east-west bus service alternatives include Metro Bus Line 166, which has available capacity during peak times. Following a deadline of today for public comment on proposed changes, staff will present their final recommendations to the San Fernando Valley Governance Council at its March 7th meeting in Van Nuys. The story is

expected to run next week.

Regional Transportation CEO's Committee Meeting Recap

The Regional Transportation CEO's Committee met last Friday to discuss the status of the Multi-County Goods Movement Action Plan (MCGMAP) and the Goods Movement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The draft MCGMAP will likely be released at the end of this month. The group agreed that the conclusions of the MCGMAP, when finalized, should be shared publicly with local governmental organizations and stakeholder advisory groups prior to adoption. Additionally, the Committee agreed to draft a joint letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger encouraging his approval of the Goods Movement MOU.

We also discussed a proposal for expanding the Mobility 21 Coalition to other Southern California county transportation agencies and chamber/business organizations. As part of the proposal, the creation of a Board of Directors, Summit Steering Committee, and coalition meetings and the provision of staff members were discussed. The possibility of incorporating the regional Mobility 21 into a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit entity was also mentioned. The Committee agreed to return next month with some suggestions for these recommendations.

The next meeting has been scheduled for March 9th.

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