



In this issue:

- [Congestion Reduction Grant To Undergo Adjustment](#)
- [CTC Adopts the 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program](#)
- [Bus Detour to be Established for Planned March along Beaudry Avenue](#)
- [South Bay Open House Events For June](#)
- [Tagger "NIKLE" Arrested by Sheriff Deputies](#)
- [Go Metro to Annual Los Feliz Village Street Fair](#)
- [Media Inquiry into Biking as a Commuting Option](#)

Congestion Reduction Grant to Undergo Adjustment

Officials from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) have informed us that the recently awarded \$213.6 million congestion reduction grant will need to undergo an adjustment of \$3 million, thereby slightly reducing the grant amount to \$210.6 million. According to USDOT, the Administration anticipates it will soon be required by law to reserve \$3 million in FY 2007 bus and bus facilities funds to reimburse Caltrans for operating expenses incurred in the aftermath of the April 2007 collapse of the MacArthur Maze freeway overpass in the Bay Area. This directive was approved by Congress immediately following last year's freeway collapse and was subsequently included in the final version of the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections bill, which is pending White House approval. Because all remaining FY 2007 discretionary bus funds have already been obligated to urban partnership finalists, the Administration's only recourse was to deduct this amount from our congestion pricing grant, which also comes from the FY 2007 bus program. Additionally, FY 2008 bus funds are not available as a reimbursement source since these funds have already been apportioned.

It should be noted that the same \$3 million reduction would have been imposed on New York City's grant had the New York Legislature acted prior to the April 7th deadline for passing legislation. In light of the situation facing us, we have already been in discussions with Caltrans to identify potential sources of state funding to compensate for the \$3 million deduction. We will keep you informed of new developments.

CTC Adopts the 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program

Last week on May 29th, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted the \$5.8 billion 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in San Diego. Adoption of the 2008 State TIP completes the process of re-programming \$4.6 billion from prior State TIP cycles and first-time programming of \$1.2 billion statewide through FY 2013. Los Angeles County received \$903 million in re-programmed funds and \$74 million in new programming. The new programming figure is comparatively low compared to other State TIPs because LA County received a substantial \$130 million advance of our County Share in the last State TIP cycle. The new programming includes \$24.3 million for Planning and Programming, \$36.6 million in Transportation Enhancements funds for the Call for Projects and \$9.2 million for Route 138 & Interstate-10 in the Antelope and San Gabriel Valleys, respectively.

In other actions, the CTC also approved a notice to proceed with the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San Fernando Valley North/South Transit Corridor project on the Canoga right-of-way and deferred action on amendments to the Interstate 5 Corridor Mobility Improvement Account baseline agreements. Postponing the I-5 amendments will have no impact on the project schedules. Staff requested that the I-5 items be postponed when we learned that the Caltrans-prepared staff report omitted information necessary for subsequent execution of the amended agreements. We will return to the CTC later this month with the necessary supplemental information.

Bus Detour to be Established for Planned March along Beaudry Avenue

Today, we were notified that a march will take place on Thursday, June 5, 2008 from 333 Beaudry Avenue to 320 West 4th Street. The march organizers plan to use Beaudry Avenue as an assembly area for 50 shuttle buses, therefore, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation has requested that we temporarily relocate our bus layover zone on Beaudry Ave., between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., to accommodate the 50 shuttle buses. Staff is preparing a draft detour notice, which will be disseminated once we receive all event details.

South Bay Open House Events For June

Today, Media Relations distributed a news release noting that the South Bay Service Sector will hold three open house events in June to get public feedback on Metro Bus services operating in the South Bay region of Los Angeles County. South Bay Sector General Manager, Dana Coffey and/or sector staff will be on hand to welcome the public, promote public transit and talk about Metro Bus services offered and answer questions on our services in their communities. The three open house events

planned for June are:

Arthur Winston Division 5, Saturday, June 14, 2008, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ,5425 Van Ness Avenue, South Los Angeles

Carson Division 18, Saturday, June 21, 2008, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 450 W. Griffith Street, Carson

Artesia Transit Center, Tuesday, June 24, 2008, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., 731 W. 182nd Street, Los Angeles

Tagger "NIKLE" Arrested by Sheriff Deputies

Today, Sheriff Deputies served an arrest warrant for a tagger known as "**NIKLE**" and searched his residence in Los Angeles. NIKLE is from the tagging crews **Urban Squad (US)**, **One Eight Seven Krew (OESK)** and **Always Getting High (AGH)**. NIKLE has caused approximately \$73,000 in damages to our buses in Divisions 7 and 10.

While at his residence, NIKLE told Deputies that he stopped tagging and that he threw away all of his tagging paraphernalia. While searching his residence, slap tags, practice sheets and paint were found hidden in the hallway ceiling.

NIKLE waived his rights and signed a Miranda Wavier Form admitting to etching/writing "**NIKLE**" on 13 separate occasions. He also provided additional information on others taggers that will lead to other search warrants in the future.

Go Metro to Annual Los Feliz Village Street Fair

Media Relations issued a news release this afternoon encouraging people to Go Metro to get to the 17th Annual Los Feliz Village Street fair on Sunday, June 8, from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Vermont Avenue between Franklin Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard.

The Green Scene is a special interest pavilion within the fair designed to showcase environmentally friendly, eco-conscious and sustainable products. Samplings of the green exhibitors include natural and organic clothes to completely green living environments, to organic food, yoga and holistic healing. We have teamed up with The Green Scene at the fair to encourage attendees to Go Metro to the fair instead of driving. The nearest Metro Rail Station is the Sunset/Vermont Station. All riders who present their Metro pass at our exhibit in "The Green Scene" pavilion between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 4 p.m. will qualify to enter a special prize drawing. The winner will receive a two night weekend stay for two at the new eco-chic Hotel Palomar in Westwood

Media Inquiry into Biking as a Commuting Option

Today, a reporter with La Opinion requested information regarding the high cost of gasoline and what we are doing to promote the use of bicycles as a commuting alternative. Staff explained that we have installed bike racks on most of our 2,500 bus fleet and installed bike lockers and bike racks on all Metro Rail, Metro Orange Line and Metrolink stations. We offer incentives to businesses and companies with over 250 employees that benefit from the rideshare programs. Also, it was mentioned that through the Call for Projects Program, we earmarked \$35 million for bike programs in Los Angeles County. A story is expected to run tomorrow.

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