



In this issue:

- [Reason Foundation Endorses LA Congestion Pricing Project; Criticizes Legislation to Prevent HOT Lane Conversions](#)
- [Budget Subcommittees Recommend Allocation of Additional Public Transportation Account Revenues](#)
- [AFSCME Labor Negotiations Status](#)
- [Next Live Chat with Board Chair O'Connor Set for June 18th](#)
- [March Update](#)
- [TBAC Mixer](#)
- [Go Metro to Weekend Christopher Street Festival and Parade](#)

Reason Foundation Endorses LA Congestion Pricing Project; Criticizes Legislation to Prevent HOT Lane Conversions

Today, Robert W. Poole, Director of Transportation Studies at the [Reason Foundation](#), sent a letter to Representatives Gary Miller (R-Diamond Bar), David Dreier (R-Covina) and Howard “Buck” McKeon (R-Santa Clarita) regarding congestion pricing and the recent introduction of H.R. 6002, the “Free Way Act” of 2008. In his letter, Mr. Poole delivers a strong endorsement of our demonstration project, explains why congestion pricing has been a great free market success story and calls on the congressmen to seriously reconsider their position. Poole is well known in transportation circles as an author, researcher and policy expert and has advised the last four presidential administrations on transportation issues.

Budget Subcommittees Recommend Allocation of Additional Public Transportation Account Revenues

Earlier today, The Senate Budget Sub-Committee #4 approved a recommendation to partially restore Public Transportation Account (PTA) funds. Recently, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee approved a similar recommendation, however, the Assembly recommendation restores more funds and provides more relief to the operations side of the PTA. These recommendations are encouraging in that they increase the amount of revenue into the PTA, however, the larger budget deficit may still impact negotiations on this issue as well as a potential suspension of Proposition 42.

AFSCME Labor Negotiations Status

Our negotiating team has met with the Executive Board of AFSCME Local 3634 to review and finalize the contract language which includes the economic package authorized by the Board. AFSCME Local 3634 has scheduled a membership meeting on Saturday, June 7, 2008 for the ratification vote of the agreement.

Next Live Chat with Board Chair O'Connor Set for June 18th

Media Relations issued a [news release](#) today noting that the sixth "Live Chat" with Chair Pam O'Connor will take place on Wednesday, June 18, 2008. The release notes that summer's coming and gas prices are through the roof. We encourage the public to tell Chair O'Connor your favorite Los Angeles County summer excursion and explain how to get there via public transit. And while you're at it, share your favorite mass transit tips with first-time transit users -- new riders who are trying to save money on gas. It's all for a great cause: Gas avoidance. Chair O'Connor will also be available to discuss the potential half-cent sales tax dedicated to LA County transit projects and other transportation issues.

March Update

Yesterday, I provided preliminary information about a march tomorrow morning sponsored by the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) Union to protest state budget cuts to education. The route will primarily follow 4th Street east from Beaudry Avenue, which takes it above the major north/south service streets until participants get to Olive Street. Olive St. will be closed only long enough to let the marchers go by. Hill Street will be closed between 3rd and 5th Streets for a couple of hours for the rally. Broadway Avenue and streets east of Broadway Ave. will not be affected. To view a copy of the detour notice, [click here](#).

TBAC Mixer

Last week, I along with several staff members attended the Transportation Business Advisory Council's (TBACs) annual mixer on Thursday, May 29th here at Gateway Plaza. During the event, we had the opportunity to invite the small business community to work with us to meet the challenge of the current competitive economic environment. Our caring and commitment to the small business community flows from the top down as indicated by Lonnie Mitchell, Chief of Administrative Services who helped kick-off the event, along with Linda B. Wright, Deputy Executive Officer of Diversity and Economic Opportunity.

Along with the host Executive Board of TBAC, the mixer drew close to 100

attendees, including small business owners and representatives, partner agencies, and our strategic business unit chiefs. Former Laker great, Jamal Wilkes, was also among the attendees. During the informal networking period, participants had the opportunity to learn more about TBAC activities and to sign up for membership with any of the 14 small business organizations that comprise the Council.

Go Metro to Weekend Christopher Street Festival and Parade

Media relations distributed a [news release](#) this afternoon encouraging the public the Go Metro this weekend, June 7th and 8th, to West Hollywood for the Christopher Street Festival and Parade. The release notes that Metro Bus lines 2, 4, 10, 105, 220, 305 and 550 provide bus service to the area. So does the Metro Red Line subway, in combination with the bus. To use the Metro Red Line, exit at the Hollywood/Highland station and catch the 217 bus heading west (the stop is on the north side of Hollywood Boulevard, outside the Hollywood/Highland station) to Santa Monica Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue. Or take the Metro Red Line to the Vermont/Santa Monica station and catch Line 4 or 704 west on Santa Monica Boulevard to West Hollywood. The release also notes some bus detours that may occur in the area over the weekend.

[Metro.net Home](#) | [Press Room](#) | [Projects & Programs](#) | [Meeting Agendas](#) | [Riding Metro](#) | [Metro Library](#)

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