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Los Angeles Times Inquires About the On Long Range Transportation Plan

The Los Angeles Times may publish an editorial about the Long Range Transportation Plan as early as tomorrow. A writer called us and asked just one question: how does ridership and cost projections compare between the Foothill Extension of the Metro Gold Line and Expo Phase II. Media relations staff checked with Planning and me before responding. While the cost of building a 10.5-mile extension of the Gold Line to Azusa would be much cheaper than the 7-mile Expo extension from Culver City to Santa Monica, ridership is higher for the Expo Line.

The Construction Authority for the Foothill Extension estimates the cost at \$400 million, though staff believes the cost could be as high as \$570 million. This is less expensive than the \$970 million construction estimate in today's dollars for Expo Phase II. However, using federal modeling parameters, ridership estimates for the Foothill extension is approximately 10,000 additional boardings compared to approximately 40,000 for Expo Phase II. Staff tried to dissuade the Times from making such comparisons noting that there is the need for new rail service in the San Gabriel Valley as well as the Westside and other parts of the county, and the 10 million residents of the county are dispersed among 88 cities and unincorporated areas. In fairness, staff also noted that land availability for development in the San Gabriel Valley around future rail stations may very well boost ridership.

Chair to Keynote National Contract Management Association – LA Gateway Chapter Meeting

On Wednesday, June 25, 2008, Chair O'Connor will be the featured speaker at the

National Contract Management Association's Los Angeles Gateway Chapter Meeting. The event will take place from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. here at Gateway Headquarters in the Windsor Conference Room on the 15th Floor. The Chair will be speaking on "The Future of Transportation in Los Angeles County: A Funding and Sustainability Discussion."

Downtown Road Closures

Due to Senator Barack Obama's visit to Los Angeles on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) will begin posting traffic officers at the intersection around the Music Center downtown at approximately 2:00 p.m. They will then close one lane of northbound Hope Street from First Street to Temple Street. The LADOT will also post "no parking from 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m." signs along Grand Avenue. At this point, the LADOT is not planning to close any streets for this event; however, onsite officials may decide to close a street if necessary.

Reserve the Dates

CTC Meeting on Congestion Pricing, Wednesday, June 25, 2008 from 3:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sacramento, California

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) will discuss the status of our Congestion Pricing application.

Board Chair Live Call-In TV Show, Wednesday, June 25, 2008, 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Chair O'Connor will take to the air waves once again to promote live public discussion of Los Angeles County's mobility future. The show will air on both City of Los Angeles Channel 36 and CityTV Channel 16 in Santa Monica.

Implementation of Six New Metro Rapid Bus Lines Media Event, Wednesday, June 25, 2008, 10:00 a.m., North Hollywood Red Line Station (near the bus plaza), North Hollywood, California

This event will announce the implementation of six new Metro Rapid Lines and highlight Line 724 which will operate from the North Hollywood station to the Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink Station.

Board members who wish to attend may contact my office so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Congestion Pricing Discovery Workshop, Friday, June 27, 2008, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, 350 S. Bixel Street, Los Angeles,

California

The workshop will provide discussion and information about the role of congestion pricing in a new era for congestion management, environmental awareness and funding constraints. Tyler Duvall, Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy and Acting Under Secretary for Policy in the office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Transportation, will be attending this event.

Board members who wish to attend may contact my office so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Monthly Luncheon, Wednesday, July 9, 2008, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Spago Restaurant, 176 Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, California

I will be speaking at this event on a variety of topics including the Long Range Transportation Plan, the proposed half-cent sales tax initiative and the need for new funding for projects.

Presentation of Homeland Security Grant Media Event, Friday, July 11, 2008, 9:30 a.m., Gateway Headquarters, One Gateway Circle, Los Angeles, California

The purpose of the event is to accept a multi-million dollar grant from the California Office of Homeland Security to be used for security related projects.

Board members who wish to attend may contact my office so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Public Transportation Finance Forum, Monday, July 14, 2008, Time TBD, LA Chamber of Commerce, 350 S. Bixel Street, Los Angeles, California

The Consul General of Spain will be hosting a one day transportation infrastructure forum to discuss transportation projects in the region and review projects that could be suitable for Public Private Partnerships (PPP). A Spanish business delegation will speak to the audience about successful PPP projects they have done.

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