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**In this issue:**

- [Meeting Scheduled with Council of Government Members on Proposed Countywide Sales Tax Measure](#)
- [LA City Council Rules and Government Committee Supports our Half-Cent Sales Tax Efforts](#)
- [LA City Council Transportation Committee Hears Bicycle Items](#)
- [Media Relations Issues News Release on Metro Rail Ridership Hits New Highs](#)
- [Media Relations Issues News Release Regarding Gold Line Eastside Extension Construction Notice](#)
- [Next Week's Procurement Postings](#)
- [Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events](#)

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**Meeting Scheduled with Council of Government Members on Proposed Countywide Sales Tax Measure**

We have requested a meeting with Council of Government staff members to share with them our revised expenditure plan and obtain their input. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 15, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. here at Metro.

**LA City Council Rules and Government Committee Supports our Half-Cent Sales Tax Efforts**

Earlier this week, the Los Angeles City Council Rules and Government Committee adopted the Chief Legislative Analyst's recommendation to support our efforts to place a half cent sales tax on the November ballot. The City included a list of projects that they would like funded by the sales tax including the Green Line to LAX, Subway to the Sea, Downtown Regional Connector and the north/south extension of the Metro Orange Line. The Committee also agreed to Councilman Jose Huizar's request to include the Downtown Street Car in the list of projects to be considered for the sales tax. The Committee also considered a separate motion to encourage us to place a one cent sales tax on the ballot instead of half a cent and to support

legislation that would raise the countywide cap on the sales tax. The Chair held this motion in committee. The committee adopted the motion to support our half-cent sales tax efforts, which is tentatively scheduled for City Council next Friday.

### **LA City Council Transportation Committee Hears Bicycle Items**

Earlier this week, the Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee heard several bicycle related items. The committee approved a Councilmember Garcetti and Reyes motion to develop a Shared Lane Pavement Markings pilot program, also known as "sharrows", which encourages safe co-existence of motor vehicles and bicycles by having bicycles travel outside the car door zone. The pilot program would create corridors on Vermont Avenue between Hollywood Blvd, and 4th Street and on Fountain Avenue between the Hollywood (101) Freeway and Hoover Street. The Committee directed City staff to develop effectiveness criteria for the pilot program and further research the impact of peak hour parking restrictions on implementing the sharrows pilot program on Vermont Avenue before the item is considered by the full Council.

The committee also approved a Councilmember Greuel and Reyes motion expanding the capacity to carry bicycles on the DASH and Commuter Express buses. Committee members want to see LADOT upgrade bus bike racks on their Commuter Express fleet to increase the capacity from two to three as racks are replaced and as new buses are purchased. The motion also directs LADOT to forward their bike recommendations to us and request additional information on relevant Metro bicycle policies on buses and the rail systems. In another action, the committee directed City staff to continue work on a revised citywide bicycle plan and provide a status report to the committee in 30 days.

Additionally, today five members of the City Council introduced a motion that affirms and supports efforts to promote improved conditions for cyclists and encourages appreciation for the "Cyclists' Bill of Rights" and directs staff to provide recommendations on how to incorporate these principles into the City's Bicycle Master Plan.

### **Media Relations Issues News Release on Metro Rail Ridership Hits New Highs**

Today, Media Relations issued a [news release](#) noting the Metro Rail ridership records were set on several rail lines in June 2008 as commuters and others parked their cars and opted for cheap and fast service to avoid high gas prices. The Metro Red and Purple subway lines, the Metro Gold and Green Lines all set weekday ridership records and the Metro Blue Line fell just short of a record.

Metro Orange Line buses also set a ridership record. Last month 309,000 passengers boarded Metro Rail trains on an average weekday, up 12.8 percent,

compared to a year earlier. About half of those riders (153,928) rode the subway, which connects downtown Los Angeles and Universal City and North Hollywood via Hollywood with a spur to Wilshire and Western.

The release also notes that for the second month in a row, the Metro Gold Line from downtown Los Angeles to Pasadena set a new ridership record with 26,338 average weekday boardings, up 31.8 percent in June 2008 over last year.

The Metro Green Line connecting Norwalk and El Segundo nabbed a record with 44,034 boardings, and the Metro Blue Line, which travels from downtown Los Angeles to Long Beach, experienced its second highest ridership with 84,353 average weekday boardings. The Metro Orange Line boosted weekday ridership by 4.4 percent over last year to 26,596 boardings.

At the same time, Metro bus ridership, which had been lagging following last summer's fare hike, bounced back. It's still down 1.96 percent for the quarter compared to last year but it had been down as much as 7 percent in previous quarters. Stories on the ridership increases are expected to run tonight and over the weekend.

### **Media Relations Issues News Release Regarding Gold Line Eastside Extension Construction Notice**

Today, Media Relations distributed a [news release](#) noting that Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension construction crews will remove the last part of decking on First Street, between Fresno and Lorena streets, in Boyle Heights, on Monday, July 14, in order to build the roof of the exit of the East Portal and finalize street restoration work as part of the construction of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. Work on street restoration, curb, gutter, sidewalk reconstruction and street lighting will begin Monday at 6:00 a.m. and will continue for the next four weeks on a 24-hour basis.

First Street will be closed to vehicle traffic during the work. Residents will have access to their homes through the rear alley. Pedestrian traffic will be restricted on First Street from Fresno to Lorena streets. There will be no access to the jogging path along the construction zone. There will be no impact to mail delivery. Residents are encouraged to place their trash receptacles at First/Lorena and First/Fresno intersections.

Eastbound traffic on First Street will be detoured to southbound Evergreen Avenue, to eastbound 4th Street, northbound Gage Avenue, to eastbound First Street. Westbound traffic on First Street will be detoured to northbound Gage Avenue, to westbound Cesar Chávez Avenue, to southbound Evergreen Avenue, to westbound First Street.

Temporary bus stops relocation:

Metro Bus lines 30, 31 and 330 will stop at assigned Line 68 bus stop on Cesar Chávez Avenue.

Eastbound Metro Bus lines 30, 31, and 330 will be detoured to northbound Evergreen Avenue, eastbound Cesar Chávez Avenue, southbound Lorena Street, to eastbound First Street.

Westbound Metro Bus lines 30, 31 and 330 will be detoured to northbound Lorena Street, westbound Cesar Chavez, southbound Evergreen, to westbound First Street.

### **Next Week's Procurement Postings**

#### RFIQ for the Procurement of One-Ton Utility Pick-up Trucks and Crew Cab Trucks

We will release a Request for Interest and Qualifications (RFIQ) next week seeking to procure seven one-ton utility pick-up trucks and nine 3/4-ton crew cab trucks. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from July 15 to September 24, 2008.

The purpose of this procurement is to purchase pick-up trucks for use in supporting the agency's operations.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Diane Ly, Assistant Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-1102.

#### IFB to Procure Wall-Mounted Map Cases

We will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) next week to procure 40 wall-mounted map cases. The procurement process period is expected to run from July 18 through July 30, 2008.

Additional map cases are needed to provide commuters with information at numerous Metro bus and rail stations.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed and may only be answered by Bassar Richardson, Contract Administrator, at (213) 922.4596.

### **Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events**

Next week, I will be meeting with Directors Najarian and Parks; Maria Elena Durazo of L.A. County Federation; and Denny Zane. I will also meet with Jim Thomas,

Board Member of the Rand Corporation and Hillary Norton, Executive Director of the Traffic Advisory Board regarding Rand's Traffic Report. I will also be participating in the Governor's Office of Homeland Security Press Event for the Transportation Security Funding that our agency will be receiving from Prop 1B. Finally, I will be participating in the Proposed Countywide Sales Tax Measure Meeting with the Council of Government staff members.

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