



Metro

Daily Brief

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Congresswoman Solis Holds Media Event on the Foothill Extension of the Metro Gold Line

Today, Congresswoman Hilda Solis (D-CA) along with other elected officials and business and educational institution representatives held a ["Walk the Line"](#) media event in support of Phase II of the Metro Gold Line extension project to Montclair. They emphasized the need for us to include the project in our updated Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

A reporter from La Opinion, the Spanish Language newspaper, requested a statement from us regarding the press conference. Media Relations staff responded that the Foothill Extension of the Gold Line is included in the LRTP, but not funded along with a host of other vital transportation projects that are equally important for the region, but remain unfunded as well. Those unfunded projects total \$60 billion. The reporter was told that the Board will discuss and vote on the LRTP during the June monthly meeting. However, we continue to focus on finding additional revenue sources to fund and build all the critical projects included in the LRTP. Media Relations also received an inquiry from City News Service. Stories are expected to run tomorrow.

LA City Council Receives Report on Proposed Bus Service Changes

Yesterday, the Los Angeles City Council received the Transportation Committee's report on our proposed June 2008 service changes. Staff informed the Council that the current number of lines impacted by the proposed service

changes was reduced from the number presented at the February public hearings. Councilmember Wendy Greuel acknowledged that we provided the opportunity for our customers to give their input to the Sector Governance Councils on the proposed service changes and managed to reduce some of the service modifications. Councilmember Huizar thanked us for removing the proposed elimination of Line 256 weekday service from consideration, although he noted that weekend service will be eliminated. Staff informed Councilmember La Bonge that Line 175 will continue to operate until December 2008 to allow staff time to work with LAUSD and LADOT to develop alternative service.

Greater Los Angeles Vendor Fair held at the LA Convention Center

Yesterday, Mayor Villaraigosa and I spoke at the 2008 Greater Los Angeles Vendor Fair (GLAVF), the largest local agency business opportunity outreach event in California, which creates an ideal opportunity for contracting officers and businesses to meet face-to-face in one location. The GLAVF is a collaboration between us and the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles and the Metropolitan Water District. Collectively, the hosting agencies bring billion-dollar contracting and procurement opportunities to the businesses.

This is the fifteenth year that our Procurement and Material Management Department and DEOD along with other departments have spearheaded this event to streamline and reduce the barriers and "demystify" the process for contracting with a large public agency such as ours.

More than 1,500 people attended the fair, featuring hundreds of buyers and contract managers and a multitude of entrepreneurs and business development experts that came together to network and build business relationships.

Media Inquiry into our Alternative Fueled Bus Fleet

The Downtown News inquired today regarding our alternative fueled bus fleet. The reporter interviewed Vehicle Technology & Support staff to discuss new vehicles purchased in recent years such as the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) bus fleet and the new purchase order of six new hybrid buses. Staff explained that we are a leader in the nation on low emission vehicles, noting that we currently have over 2,500 CNG buses in operation and that we try to meet all of the mandatory requirements from federal and state laws set down from the Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board. A story is expected to run next week.

Media Inquiry regarding the Metro Green Line Construction Authority Legislation

Today, Media Relations received an inquiry from The Daily Breeze asking if we were aware of Senate Bill 1722 being introduced today by Senator Jenny Oropeza (D-Long Beach). The bill would establish the Metro Green Line Construction Authority in an effort to extend the line to LAX. The reporter was told that our Board has not yet taken a position on the legislation and that staff will need to review it and apprise the Board for their direction. The reporter was also told that we are concerned with funding issues throughout the region and indicated that the extension of the Green Line to LAX is included in the Long Range Transportation Plan; however, it remains unfunded due to a shortfall of transportation dollars needed for the region. Assemblymember Ted Lieu (D-Torrance) introduced a similar Bill (AB 889) last year, which did not pass. The reporter was told that, last year, the Board opposed AB 889.

Media Inquiry regarding the Ad-Hoc Sustainability Committee Meeting

A reporter with City News Service inquired today about the Ad-Hoc Sustainability Committee meeting. Staff told the reporter the committee members were updated on our four focused projects of sustainability, Air Quality, Carbon-based revenue programming and policy analysis, Sustainable Transportation Performance Indicators and Energy conservation initiatives. A survey of other agency's sustainability efforts show that our sustainability program can be closely compared to New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority except for the regional planning function. We are working closely with our regional partners on a Sustainability Summit, which is planned for late spring 2008. The objective of the summit is to develop a plan for partnership to ensure a coordinated regional sustainability effort. A story may run later today.

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