



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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**CEO Roger Snoble**

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### **Media Inquiry on the Status of U.S. Congestion-Reduction Demo Application**

The Los Angeles Times has inquired about the status of our federal congestion-reduction demonstration application. Media Relations staff told a reporter that we have not received any official word from the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) and that it is unlikely a decision would be made until after April 7th, the deadline for the New York Legislature to pass legislation authorizing New York City's proposed congestion pricing project. The \$354 million federal grant to New York City is conditioned on the enactment of state legislation by April 7th. We are continuing to have discussions with USDOT. We understand that federal funding for these demonstration projects is much more limited in this second round. Federal officials clearly recognize the traffic challenges we face in Los Angeles County and the potential for our project to help us better manage freeway traffic. I will keep the Board apprised as soon as we receive official notification.

Nevertheless, staff is proceeding with the Board directed Congestion Pricing Operating Plan for Los Angeles County that will produce at least three options for congestion reduction/value pricing suitable for implementation by 2010.

### **Assembly Budget Subcommittee #5 Considers TCIF Budget**

Yesterday, the Assembly budget Subcommittee #5 on Information Technology & Transportation considered the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund (TCIF) program. Chairman Mike Feuer (D-Los Angeles) raised concerns regarding the

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proposed “over programming” of the TCIF program. California Transportation Commission (CTC) Executive Director John Barna and Caltrans Director Will Kempton provided responses to Chairman Feuer’s concerns. However, the Committee adopted the budget staff recommendation to hold the item open until after the May Revise because the Administration did not fully resolve the Committee’s concerns. The Governors’ proposed \$500 million for TCIF is on hold until after the negotiations take place in May. The CTC is scheduled to adopt a TCIF program at its meeting next week.

### **Recap of Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board Meeting**

Today, the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority (Expo) Board met at 2:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors’ Hearing Room (381B) in the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

During the meeting, the Expo Board took the following actions:

- Authorized the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to establish a 10% Change Order contingency with DMJM Harris for Engineering and Environmental Consulting services on Phase 2;
- Adopted the proposed Phase 1 FY09 budget, which includes design-build contractor expenditures, Metro and Authority costs, utility relocations, real estate costs, professional services, rail cars, and third party review;
- Adopted the proposed Phase 2 FY09 budget, which includes Metro and Authority staff costs, administration, legal, professional services, third party review, and contingency; and
- Authorized the CEO to issue a limited Notice-to-Proceed to FCI/Fluor/Parsons for initial construction activities – tree removal, fencing, and third party utility construction – within Segment C from Harcourt Avenue to Venice Boulevard.

In addition, the Board Received and Filed the Monthly Report on CEO authorized contracts and the Monthly Project Status Update.

The next scheduled meeting will be on May 1, 2008.

### **AFL-CIO March**

The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) has organized a three day March of labor unions from Hollywood to the Long Beach docks from April 15-17, 2008. During that time, actors, janitors, long shore workers, and many other employees, along with members of the

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community, will march 28-miles from Hollywood to the docks of San Pedro. In addition to walking all three days straight, these workers and community supporters will camp-out overnight along the route.

The march will begin at the La Brea Tar Pits on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and will conclude on April 17<sup>th</sup> with a massive rally at the Port of Los Angeles at 6:00 pm. The route begins on Wilshire Boulevard and head towards Vermont Avenue where it will proceed south paralleling the 110 Freeway. Wilshire Blvd. and Vermont Ave. are the two highest ridership lines in the bus system. Bus Operations Control will be coordinating detours to accommodate the march and rallies.

### **Media Inquiry on the Metro Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Study**

Yesterday, a Whittier News reporter interviewed Planning and Community Relations staff to discuss the upcoming community meetings to update the public on the Metro Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Study. Staff explained that the feedback from the community and the technical analysis has helped to refine alternatives for possible routes alignments, transit modes, station locations and potential configuration of segments. The public meetings will begin Wednesday, April 9, 2008 and will take place in Whittier, South El Monte, Montebello and Pico Rivera. A story is scheduled to run Sunday.

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

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