



Metro

Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble

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New York Congestion Pricing Plan Dies in State Legislature; City Loses Federal Grant

As reported in last Thursday's Daily Brief, today was the deadline for the New York Legislature to pass legislation authorizing New York City's proposed congestion pricing project as a condition of receiving a \$354 million urban partnership grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). This afternoon, the Speaker of the New York Assembly, Sheldon Silver, announced that the legislation will not be brought up for a vote due to "overwhelming" opposition among Democratic members. In response to New York's failure to pass required legislation, Transportation Secretary Mary Peters issued the following statement:

"Thanks to the leadership of Mayor Bloomberg, Governor Paterson, Majority Leader Bruno, the City Council and many other state and local officials and civic, environmental, business and labor organizations, New York has engaged in one of the most vigorous and significant debates about transportation policy in modern U.S. history. While today's announcement, if accurate, is deeply disappointing, New York's mounting traffic and environmental woes point to congestion pricing as an inevitable solution, even if not in the next few months or with the assistance of federal Urban Partnership dollars. Starting tomorrow, we will engage with many of the largest cities in the United States that have put forward ambitious traffic fighting plans to discuss how they could use this money to cut traffic, improve transit and reduce pollution."

Given today's turn of events, we have already initiated communication with

USDOT officials to determine their intentions and discuss next steps. As soon as further information is available, I will inform the Board.

Congresswoman Hilda Solis Visits the San Gabriel Valley Sector and Bus Division in El Monte

Today, Congresswoman Hilda Solis (D-32) visited our new ecologically green San Gabriel Valley sector office in El Monte. The Congresswoman was greeted at the facility by our Service Sector General Manager Jack Gabig, Board Deputy Mary Lou Echternach and our Director of Capital Projects Tim Lindholm.

This facility, which is just blocks away from the Congresswoman's District Office, has been granted a silver rating by the Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). Congresswoman Solis is very interested in our sustainability programs and praised our agency for taking a leading role in addressing air pollution in Los Angeles County.

The Congresswoman met with a number of our staff at the facility and was impressed with their dedication to delivering public transportation to her constituents. Last year, Congresswoman Solis praised our sustainability programs at an energy conservation conference she hosted in her district. Our staff will continue to work with the Congresswoman and her aides to secure broad support for our ongoing sustainability initiatives.

Media Inquiry into Clear Channel Billboard Issue

Today, The Los Angeles Times is working on a story regarding billboards within the City of Los Angeles, and in specific, a tentative settlement agreement reached by us with Clear Channel Outdoor Advertising and the transfer to the City of our South Park property. Staff told the reporter that we transferred right-of-way property to the City to enable it to construct its Santa Monica Boulevard Transit Parkway project and a total of 14 billboards were removed by us as an agent of the City of LA to make way for street improvements to Santa Monica Boulevard.

Clear Channel sued us in late 2002 over the removal of those billboards. A tentative agreement would settle all claims by Clear Channel against us and the City by allowing Clear Channel to put up two billboards at our Division 2 location. The permit for the two billboards is pending approval by the LA City Council, which is expected to take up the issue tomorrow. The tentative agreement also included the City's purchase of our South Park property to allow the creation of a new wetlands park on the site. The story is expected to run tomorrow.

Media Inquiry into Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Meetings

Today, a reporter with Eastern Group Publications interviewed staff regarding the upcoming Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 public meetings that begin Wednesday, April 9, 2008 in the City of Whittier. The meetings are also scheduled to take place in South El Monte, Montebello and Pico Rivera.

Staff explained that there are three possible transit corridors within the 80-square mile study area, such as Garvey and the 60 Freeway in the northern section; Beverly and Whittier in the central area; and Washington Blvd. in the southern section. A story is scheduled to run in this Thursday's weekly edition of the paper.

Media Inquiries into Creative Services Program

Last week, a La Opinion reporter interviewed Creative Services staff to discuss the art program, the range of artists commissioned to enhance our facilities and the free art tours offered by our volunteer docents. A story is expected to run within the next two weeks.

Also last week, an LA Times reporter interviewed Creative Services staff to discuss the upcoming live poetry readings and the various art projects located within our Metro Rail system that include poetry. The reporter was interested in the 10th anniversary of our Poetry in Motion program which is co-sponsored by the Poetry Society of America and posts poetry on the interiors of our Metro bus fleet. April is National Poetry Month and a story is expected to run in the next week.

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