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Los Angeles City Council Approves Draft Congestion Mitigation Fee Feasibility Study Comments

Today, the Los Angeles City Council approved comments to our draft Congestion Mitigation Fee Feasibility Study. The Council's Transportation Committee previously approved the comments which were generally supportive of our study to potentially implement a countywide congestion mitigation fee. This draft study was sent to local jurisdictions in January and comments are due to us by Friday, April 25, 2008.

German Parliament Visit

Today, Chair Pam O'Connor and I welcomed six members of the German Parliament to our headquarters. The group received presentations on our operations program, our Metro Rapid Bus program and our Congestion Reduction proposal. In addition, the delegation was led to the Bus Operations Control Center for an overview of the control system.

The members appreciated our presentations and shared that the information was very useful and will be in contact with us for future projects.

Earth Day Bus Detours

Media Relations distributed a news release and a system service alert today announcing that due to Wilshire Center Earth Day festival activities, there will be no bus service on Wilshire Boulevard between Western and Vermont avenues on Tuesday, April 22. Metro patrons should expect traffic delays and some delays in Metro Bus service in the area and plan accordingly. Metro Purple Line subway service will run according to schedule, every 10 to 12 minutes.

Metro Bus Lines 20, 720 and 920 -- which all operate along Wilshire Boulevard -- will be re-routed to 8th Street between Western and Vermont. Metro Lines 18, 66 and 209 will operate via regular routes, but will use alternate layover zones. All three lines will make all regularly scheduled stops except for the stop at Wilshire and Western. Metro supervisors and customer information staff will provide assistance along the re-routestreets to passengers and answer questions. Metro Bus service along Wilshire Blvd. between Vermont and Western should be restored by 8 p.m.

Metro Vanpool Program

Media Relations issued a news release this afternoon noting that Metro has added more than 600 new vanpools as part of the agency's five-year, \$19 million vanpool program, officially making it one of the fastest growing public vanpool programs in the country. Launched just one year ago, the program's participation rate has averaged 50 new vanpools per month, far exceeding first-year expectations. Having logged nearly 10.5 million miles in public vanpool service since its start in May 2007, more than 5,500 L.A.-area commuters now rideshare with Metro on a daily basis.

Under the Metro Vanpool Program, commuters on new or existing vanpools can receive a \$400 per month subsidy to lower the leasing cost of a vanpool vehicle and the fare to each rider. Metro anticipates that the high cost of gasoline is playing a leading role in garnering keen interest in the program as more commuters seek ways to reduce their fuel costs. Metro's Rideshare Department has also aggressively marketed the program countywide.

High Cost of Gasoline

Media relations staff was interviewed this morning by Ch. 52 on the high cost of gasoline and the use of public transit to save time and money. Staff talked about the various transportation options that are available for motorists in an effort to get them out of their cars and onto transit.

Staff & Volunteers in the Community

Next week, staff and volunteers will be promoting environmental awareness at

several events being held in celebration of Earth Day. On Tuesday, April 22, 2008 we will be at the "Rock and Ride" Earth Day event promoting public transit during lunch on the west side of Union Station. At the same time, transit volunteers will promote Metro Rail and Bus during a street festival near the Staples Center for City employees and residents. On Thursday, April 24, 2008 we will set up a booth at the Los Angeles Air Force Base's Earth Day celebration taking place near the Metro Green Line in El Segundo.

Next Week's Procurement Postings

IFB for Bus Pulse Width Stepper Valves

We will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) next week to procure bus pulse width stepper valves. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from April 23, 2008, through September 30, 2008.

These valves control the fuel delivery to the bus engine. They are being procured for maintenance of the 50 series gas engines.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Tanya Allen, Procurement Planning Administrator, at (213) 922-1018.

Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events

Next week, I will be meeting individually with Directors Antonovich, Burke, Fleming, Knabe and Yaroslavsky. I will also meet with Assemblymember Furutani who will be visiting us here at headquarters next week. Finally, I will be participating in the First Public Outreach Meeting/Symposium on Congestion-Pricing Options in Los Angeles County and a L.A. Times Editorial Board Meeting.

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