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U.S. Transportation Secretary's Press Conference

This morning, Board Chair Pam O'Connor joined U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters, Mayor Villaraigosa and Governor Schwarzenegger, along with Directors John Fasana and Richard Katz and I at a press conference to announce the awarding of \$213 million in federal transit funds to help relieve congestion on area freeways through implementation of congestion pricing. Numerous media outlets attended the event with stories expected to run throughout the day and tomorrow.

Labor Leaders Briefed on LRTP and Need for New Funding

Late yesterday, Chair O'Connor and Chief Planning Officer Carol Inge met with Maria Elena Durazo, Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, and other labor leaders to discuss the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the need for new funding.

There was a presentation and discussion of many of the projects and programs recommended for inclusion in the funded element of the 2008 LRTP, those that could be added if new funding were available, and how new funding initiatives could move new projects into the funded element and accelerate existing projects. There was also discussion about the Board action earlier in the day to begin to take steps toward a potential sales tax initiative for the November ballot.

Labor representatives included those from construction unions who would be involved in building new projects, several of the unions that represent our employees

who would operate and maintain transit services, and unions representing service workers and what Ms. Durazo referred to as "transportation consumers". They also received a presentation from a representative for Assemblyman Feuer about his transportation legislation.

Ms. Durazo directed her staff to set up a working group to begin to prepare for a possible fall campaign to increase funding for transportation and asked the unions representatives present to identify who could participate in such a working group. She also asked the representatives to try to get positions from their locals on the Feuer legislation prior to the next meeting of the Executive Board of the County Federation of Labor on May 15, 2008.

Citizens Advisory Council Recap

On Wednesday night, members of the Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) received presentations on two of the current planning studies. Planning staff members briefed the CAC on the Westside Extension and Regional Connector Alternatives Analysis Studies. The Council learned that the Westside Extension Study is evaluating alternatives for improving mobility in the 38-square mile study area from that stretched from the Metro Rail Hollywood/Highland and Wilshire/Western Stations to the Pacific Ocean. They further learned that the Regional Connector Study is evaluating alternatives for connecting the Metro Gold, Blue and Expo Lines through downtown Los Angeles.

High Gasoline Prices

CBS Evening News will be spotlighting Los Angeles in a story about high gasoline prices and how commuters are adapting by changing their driving habits. Staff reported that third quarter 2008 rail ridership has increased 3.5 percent over third quarter 2007 boardings. Individually, ridership on the Metro Red Line has grown 5.37 percent, Orange Line 6.81 percent, Green Line 2.87 percent and Gold Line 10.78 percent during the same year-over-year third quarter period. The segment also will include several commuter interviews on the Metro Red Line. The story is expected to run during tonight's news broadcast.

Next Week's Procurement Postings

RFP for Cost Allocation Plan Services

We will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) next week to procure for Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) Services. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from April 28 through August 31, 2008.

We require the services of a contractor to assist accounting staff in preparing the CAP. The CAP represents a rational way for us to distribute overhead costs that are not directly chargeable to non-overhead projects. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and our other external funding partners endorse the methodology contained in the CAP. The specific guidelines used to prepare CAPs are federal Office of Management & Budget circulars A-87 and A-133. These circulars spell out the type of costs allowed and/or allocable along with accepted ways for distributing costs across all sectors of an agency.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Linda Wasley, Senior Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-4186.

IFB for Maintenance Building Floor Slab Replacement

We have released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for the Division 8 Maintenance Building Floor Slab Replacement. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from April 25 through May 26, 2008.

The purpose of this project is to remove and replace the existing reinforced concrete floor slab in the Division 8 Maintenance Building. The existing flooring has flaked and pitted causing safety-related concerns.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Larry Lyon, Senior Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-7320.

Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events

Next week, I will be meeting with John Barna, Executive Director of the California Transportation Commission to discuss our application for authorization to implement High Occupancy Toll Lanes (AB1467). I will also meet with participants from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Southern California Leadership Network 2008. Finally, I will be participating in the OC/LA Elected Officials Workshop for the Inter-county Transportation Study and taking part in the EXPO Board meeting.

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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