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Anti-Congestion Pricing Legislation to be Unveiled

Legislation that seeks to prohibit the conversion of HOV lanes to HOT lanes will apparently be introduced tomorrow by Congressman Gary Miller (R-Diamond Bar). The Congressman shared his opposition to our congestion reduction demonstration initiative during an interview this afternoon on the John and Ken Show (AM640). According to the Congressman, he will work to incorporate the bill's language into legislation reauthorizing SAFETEA-LU next year. The Congressman referred to his legislation as the "Free Way Act." It should be noted that legislation has been previously introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by members of Congress from other states who are concerned about tolling projects. These bills would essentially block tolls on highways, bridges and tunnels constructed with federal funds. However, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has not yet taken action on any of these measures.

Our federal advocacy team intends to meet with Congressman Miller and his staff as soon as possible to discuss his concerns over congestion pricing. Staff has, during every stage of the process, consistently informed elected officials on all aspects of our congestion reduction demonstration initiative. In addition, we continue to actively convey to elected officials the Board's policy directive in pursuing congestion pricing as an innovative and necessary tool to manage congestion. We will provide the text of Congressman Miller's legislation once it is introduced and we will keep you informed of any new developments on this matter.

Bike to Work Week Kickoff

Media Relations issued a media advisory today inviting the news media to attend an event planned for Monday, May 12th to kick off Bike to Work Week here in Los Angeles County. Universal Studio characters Shrek and The Mummy will be on hand

at a bike pit stop set up at the Universal City Metro Red Line Station. We, along with our partners, the LA County Bike Coalition and the LA City Department of Transportation, are promoting Bike to Work Week and Bike to Work Day (set for Thursday, May 15th) with celebrity bike pit stops, prizes, free rides and bike and health related booths. Board Member Ara Najarian along with LA City Councilman Tom LaBonge will join us at the event planned for 9:30 a.m., Monday, May 12th.

La Opinion Story on Metro Bus Operator Training

A La Opinion reporter today visited our Central Instruction Operations (CIO) to do a story on how Metro Bus operators are trained and prepared for the job. CIO staff explained the whole process beginning with job requirements and initial training, classes, driving tests, salary, and DMV requirements. The reporter also tried our bus simulator. A story may run later this week.

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