



In this issue:

- [Proposed Sales Tax Ballot Initiative](#)
 - [News Release Regarding a Public Hearing on the Proposed FY09 Budget](#)
-

Proposed Sales Tax Ballot Initiative

Today, we mailed the a letter ([see attachment](#)) to Executive Directors at the Councils of Governments (COG) requesting their input on projects and programs that might be included in a half-cent transportation sales tax ballot measure. The letter was sent in response to an April 2008 Board adopted motion by Supervisor Antonovich requesting that we obtain additional input from the COGs and cities not represented by the COGs on the proposed projects to be included in a potential sales tax ballot measure. We have requested that they provide their input in writing or by email to metrovison@metro.net by June 6, 2008 so that it may be included in our board report to you in June. Staff has also made themselves available for presentations should the COG Executive Directors so desire. Carol Inge, our Chief Planning Officer is coordinating the outreach to the COGs.

News Release Regarding a Public Hearing on the Proposed FY09 Budget

Today, Media Relations distributed a [news release](#) announcing that we will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. to solicit public input on our proposed FY09 Budget, for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2008. The public hearing will be held in the third floor Board room at Metro Headquarters, One Gateway Plaza, next to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles.

The release notes that the public can view copies of the proposed budget at Metro.net or request a copy by calling Records Management at (213) 922-2342. The release also notes that the Board of Directors will consider adopting the budget at their Thursday, May 22, 2008 meeting that starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Gateway Headquarters.

The news release identifies that the proposed spending plan is \$230 million or 7.3 percent more than our current budget. The increase is largely due to increased

transportation subsidies for municipal bus operators, paratransit service, Metrolink, the County of Los Angeles and cities, preparation to start the new Metro Gold Line service to East Los Angeles later in 2009, and rehabilitation of older Metro Rail cars. The release explains that there will be no fare increase in the next fiscal year despite our higher operating costs and projections that local sales tax revenue will only increase one percent. Non-labor expenses will be reduced to stay at or below current levels.

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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
