



In this issue:

- [Congress Adopts Bill that Extends CNG Tax Credit](#)
- [Homeland Security Transit Grant Awarded to the Los Angeles Region](#)
- [Critical Business Systems Successfully Recovered During the Annual Disaster Recovery Exercise](#)
- [Mobility 21 Coalition Meeting set for May 21, 2008](#)
- [Next Week's Procurement Postings](#)
- [Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events](#)

Congress Adopts Bill that Extends CNG Tax Credit

The House and Senate have adopted legislation that includes language to extend the alternative fuel tax credit for an additional year. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (H.R. 2419) extends the tax credit that we receive on compressed natural gas until December 31, 2010. The tax credit, which is worth millions of dollars annually to our agency, was scheduled to expire on September 30, 2009. Our Legislative Program for 2008 listed the extension of the alternative tax credit as a priority. Despite having reservations on a number of policy grounds, President Bush is expected to sign H.R. 2419 into law.

Homeland Security Transit Grant Awarded to the Los Angeles Region

Today, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced a transit security grant in the amount of \$13.5 million for the Los Angeles region. Last year the transit grant provided to the region was in the amount of \$6.7 million. The Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) is designed to support efforts that reduce vulnerabilities to transit and rail systems and make commuters and transit riders more secure. We have used previous transit security grants to bolster our threat response support capability and to strengthen our deployment of security technology. The grant announced today will be apportioned between us, Long Beach Transit, Orange County Transit Authority, Foothill Transit, Santa Monica Big Blue Bus, Los Angeles Department of Transportation and Metrolink.

Critical Business Systems Successfully Recovered During the Annual Disaster Recovery Exercise

As part of our Emergency Response planning, we've contracted for 100 desk top spaces at Cypress, which have been pre-assigned to various offices across the agency, in the event the unthinkable occurs and the Gateway Building becomes unavailable because of a natural disaster. During the annual disaster recovery exercise, which concluded on May 8, 2008, we successfully recovered our critical business systems. Coordinated by Information Technology Services, the exercise was conducted at the contracted hot sites in New Jersey and Arizona, with Cypress, California, as the alternate work site. Arizona, a smaller site, was used to rapidly recover desktop functions, such as e-mail and internet access and New Jersey, a larger site, was used to recreate our business systems environment.

Mobility 21 Coalition Meeting Set for May 21, 2008

Media Relations today issued a media advisory and a news release announcing that the Mobility 21 Coalition will hold its Los Angeles County Coalition meeting in the San Fernando Valley next Wednesday, May 21 in Woodland Hills. The release notes that the theme of this meeting, "Focus on the Valley," will feature expert panelists that will discuss bringing transportation dollars to the San Fernando Valley and making the Valley a smart growth capitol. This session will explore how regional leaders will attract funding to the Valley for vital infrastructure projects and how critical land use and transportation decisions can improve mobility. The meeting will be held at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills on May 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Next Week's Procurement Postings

IFB for a Design/Build Contract for the Division 20 Carwash and Cleaning Platforms

We will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) next week for a design/build contract for Division 20 Carwash and Cleaning Platforms. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from May 19 to October 2, 2008.

The contract includes design and construction elements and activities which are necessary to make Carwash and Cleaning Platforms at Division 20 a fully functional system.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Brian P. Mahaffey, senior contract administrator, at (213) 922-7327.

Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events

Next week, I will be meeting individually with Chair O'Connor, and Directors Antonovich, Burke, Knabe, Villaraigosa, and Yaroslavsky. I will also be participating in Mobility 21's Quarterly Meeting, which will "Focus on the Valley".

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