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Federal and State Legislators Provided Information Regarding Congestion Reduction Initiative

I have sent a letter to members of Los Angeles County's Congressional Delegation and State Legislative Delegation concerning our congestion reduction demonstration initiative. This correspondence, which continues our ongoing outreach to federal and state officials, was accompanied by a document that addresses many of the most common questions related to our congestion reduction initiative. Attached for your review is a copy of my correspondence to Members of Congress and State Legislators and the question and answer document.

Members of Congress Invited to a Briefing on Congestion Reduction Initiative

We have invited members of the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation to a briefing at our headquarters on May 29, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. to learn more about our congestion reduction proposal. Officials from Caltrans and I will be on hand to provide an overview of the project and answer questions.

USDOT recently awarded a grant of \$213.6 million in bus and bus facilities funds to advance a comprehensive program of expanded transit services, tolling and technology in LA County. There is considerable interest among legislators and the public alike on the congestion reduction initiative. Many questions and issues have surfaced and the purpose of the briefing is to provide information about the congestion reduction initiative and to respond to inquiries and concerns.

Board members who wish to attend can contact my office for more information and

so we can make the necessary arrangements.

CTA Plans Media News Conferences Tomorrow

In conjunction with the California Transit Association's (CTA) 43rd Annual Spring Legislative Conference being held in Sacramento tomorrow, two press events are planned in a effort to provide the media with perspectives from the heads of major public transit systems throughout the state and other transit advocates in response to the Governor's May Revise Budget Proposal to slash more than \$1.4 billion from public transit in the 2008-09 state budget.

I provided the CTA with a quote for their news release which will be issued tomorrow during the events saying: "As the state continues to deal with its deficit, transportation funding once again takes a big hit by redirecting vital transportation dollars to fill those financial holes". If these cuts in transportation funding go through, Los Angeles County stands to lose up to \$133 million, which will impact our existing service level and day-to-day transit services at a time when commuters and others are desperate for alternatives to driving as they continue to get hit hard by soaring gas prices.

Board Chair Live Chat Set for Tomorrow at Noon

Board Chair Pam O'Connor's fifth live internet chat will take place tomorrow beginning at noon at metro.net/chat. The public is being encouraged to voice their opinion regarding toll roads, congestion pricing and the high price of gas during the live chat. The topic is mobility and Chair O'Connor wants to know what customers are doing to save money on gas, as well as opinions on a possible half-cent sales tax and our draft Long Range Transportation Plan.

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