



Tuesday, July 29, 2008
20080729-0

In this issue:

- [U.S. Department of Transportation Unveils New Transportation Plan](#)
- [Media Inquiry into Earthquake Impacts to Metro System](#)
- [Gateway Cities Governance Council Members Ride Express Line 577X to Monitor Performance](#)
- [Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award](#)

U.S. Department of Transportation Unveils New Transportation Plan

In anticipation of the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU next year, U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters today unveiled her department's vision for how America should address its mobility needs. The plan seeks to address issues related to the Interstate Highway System, urban congestion, enhanced safety to reduce roadway fatalities, a new effort to streamline the federal review process for new transportation projects, among other issues. The document released today argues that a new federal transportation program is needed because: a.) the current federal transportation program has lost its sense of purpose and direction; b.) America is experiencing a dramatic decline in transportation system performance; c.) of wasteful federal transportation spending and poor investment decisions and lastly; d.) there is a need to move beyond the fuel tax. According to the Associated Press, top Democratic transportation officials in the House and Senate have not yet commented on the plan issued by Secretary Peters. We will be reviewing the document released by the U.S. Department of Transportation today to study its potential impact on the flow of federal funds we receive annually.

Media Inquiry into Earthquake Impacts to Metro System

As of 2:48 p.m., Metro Rail lines have resumed normal operating speeds following a speed restriction placed in force earlier today as a result of this morning's earthquake. Because the epicenter of the earthquake occurred 30 miles away, the seismic activity was not strong enough locally to activate Metro's G-Force system alarms. We, as a safeguard, operated according to our 1G alarm standard operating

procedures by restricting rail operating speeds to 15 mph and inspected tracks, tunnels and stations. Rail service continued to operate on all lines but was delayed approximately 15-20 minutes during this time. There were no reported disruptions to Metro Bus service. Numerous media outlets have made inquiries about the quake's effects on the Metro system.

Gateway Cities Governance Council Members Ride Express Line 577X to Monitor Performance

Four members of the Metro Gateway Cities Governance Council accompanied sector staff on a bus ride-along Friday morning on Metro's express Line 577X. Participants from the Gateway Cities Governance Council included Chair Cheri Kelley (City of Norwalk Councilwoman), Anne Bayer (City of Downey Councilmember), Wally Shidler and George Bass.

The Gateway Cities Sector conducts semi-monthly bus ride-alongs on various lines operated by the sector to provide council members and staff an opportunity to monitor line performance and experience Metro bus service from our patron's perspective.

Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award

Our Procurement Department earned the 13th Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award for 2008. This is the 5th consecutive year that we have received this award and we are one of only nine special districts in California to receive this national award.

The Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award is designed to recognize excellence in procurement. The award is achieved by those organizations that demonstrate excellence in procurement by obtaining a high score on a rating of standardized criteria. The program is designed to measure innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity, and leadership attributes of the procurement function. The Achievement of Excellence in Procurement is sponsored by the National Purchasing Institute, the California Association of Public Purchasing Officers, Florida Association of Public Purchasing Officers, the Institute of Supply Management, the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, the National Association of State Procurement Officials, the National Association of Educational Procurement, and the Texas Public Purchasing Association.

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