

PHOTOS: BILL HEARD



Emil H. Frankel

Bush, Congress Proposing Big Transportation Funding Programs

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(July 18, 2003) The Bush Administration is proposing the biggest funding program "that's ever been recommended for surface transportation" and Congress is considering providing even more, Emil H. Frankel, a ranking U.S. Department of Transportation official, told an audience, Friday, at MTA Headquarters.

The Administration is seeking about \$250 billion for highway, transit and safety programs, Frankel said, as part of its transportation funding reauthorization effort. "It's not everything everybody wants, but it (funds) programs at quite substantial levels."

On Capitol Hill, meanwhile, the U.S. Senate has adopted a budget resolution calling for some \$310 billion for transportation. Frankel expects House leaders to introduce a bill in the next week or so proposing \$375 billion in transportation funding over six years.

"Our position is that Congress can and should pass a proved, responsible, constructive multi-year surface transportation authorization bill," he said. "And I think they can."

CEO Roger Snoble welcomes Emil H. Frankel, assistant secretary, U.S. DOT, to a Mobility-21 meeting.



The reauthorization bill would provide significant formula funding for MTA, including \$3.5 million for bus improvements and \$1 million for the Universal Fare System project. No funds were identified for the Eastside Light Rail Line.

CEO Roger Snoble introduced Frankel, assistant U.S. DOT secretary for transportation policy, during a meeting of the Mobility-21 Coalition, a Los Angeles County nonpartisan organization of transportation stakeholders.

"This is very much of interest to us in Mobility-21," Snoble said. "We need to have a prominent role in the reauthorization effort."

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