

MTA staff members who plan to attend Mobility 21 must have their supervisor's approval and must complete a registration form, noting their department's budget account code. Forms must be turned in to Jennifer Salamanca, Mail Stop 99-19-3, by Monday, Nov. 10.



- Mobility 21 Summit is Monday, Nov. 17, 2003
- Westin Bonaventure Hotel, 404 South Figueroa St.
- 8:30 a.m. > Opening keynote speakers
- 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. > Concurrent breakout sessions
- 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. > Lunch and legislative panel
- 1:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. > Breakout sessions/closing remarks

### **MTA, Chamber, Auto Club to Call for United Effort to Secure Transportation Funding**

By CLAUDIA KEITH

(Nov. 6, 2003) Traffic congestion and transportation funding will be the focus of the day, Nov. 17, when MTA and the LA Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Automobile Club of Southern California, host the second annual Mobility 21 transportation summit.

The summit is aimed at bringing together leaders in the public and private sectors to develop solutions to the region's traffic woes. More than 500 attended the 2002 Mobility 21 summit, approving resolutions on land use, public transit, streets and highways, transportation financing and other topics.

Elected officials, transportation providers, business and labor leaders, as well as academic and community representatives, will gather at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel for *Mobility 21: LA County Moving Together*.

"The need to work together to tackle our very challenging traffic problems has never been greater," said MTA Board Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky.

He noted that a recent study by the Texas Transportation Institute showed Los Angeles has the worst traffic congestion of any area in the nation – for the sixteenth year in a row.

"Traffic congestion affects our economy, our environment and ultimately our quality of life," said Yaroslavsky. "We need adequate funding from the federal government and Sacramento, and we need to explore local funding sources if we are to build the public transit and highway system needed to address these problems."

### **Discussion topics**

A wide range of topics will be discussed in breakout sessions. These include NIMBYs (Not In My Backyard) and building support for projects, creative local funding ideas, cutting red tape for faster projects, balancing growth and development, building transit through partnerships, getting to and from the airport, and goods movement.

"We face some big challenges ahead that will impact the future of our transportation system," said CEO Roger Snoble. "There will be stiff competition for funding of projects and the coalition will need to show that we are united in achieving a shared vision for Los Angeles County."

Keynote speaker for the opening session will be Jim Parker, vice chairman and CEO of Southwest Airlines, one of the country's leading customer-oriented airlines. Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon), a strong proponent of liveable communities and a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, will keynote the afternoon session.

A legislative panel of Los Angeles County Congressional, Senate and Assembly representatives and local city council members will address the session during lunch.

"Transportation and the ability to get to work and move goods is at the heart of our economy," said Chamber President and CEO Rusty Hammer. "We realize the importance of continuing the work we started last year to bring the transportation dollars from Washington and Sacramento that the Los Angeles area is due."

Organizations participating in Mobility 21 will include the Federal Highway Administration, Caltrans, Bay Area Rapid Transit District, Community Redevelopment Agency, USC Annenberg School of Journalism and Loyola Marymount.

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