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Mobility 21 Summit: \$9 Billion Plan for 'Top Ten Traffic Busters'

By CLAUDIA KEITH

(July 29, 2004) Transportation, government and business leaders will announce a \$9 billion plan to fund Los Angeles County's "Top Ten Traffic Busters" during the third annual Mobility 21 transportation summit, scheduled Aug. 3 in Burbank.

Metro Chairman Frank Roberts and CEO Roger Snoble, joined by Mayor James Hahn and executives from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the Automobile Club of Southern California, will make the announcement at the Hilton Burbank Airport and Convention Center.

Los Angeles' Top Ten Traffic Busters include the expansion of light rail lines, addition of carpool lanes, improvements to streets and highways, as well as improvements to key corridors to improve the movement of goods. The total price tag for the projects is close to \$9 billion.

"These Top Ten Traffic Busters represent what it will take to just keep up with anticipated growth and traffic," said Snoble. "We need to continue to build a more efficient and comprehensive transportation network, and these ten initiatives will help keep us moving in that direction."

Bringing together leaders

Mobility 21 is aimed at bringing together leaders from transportation, government, business, labor and the community to develop solutions to the region's transportation challenges.

Members of the Mobility 21 coalition have traveled extensively to Sacramento and Washington, D.C. over the past two years to advocate for more investment in transportation for Los Angeles County.

"We want our legislators to hear this region speak with one voice when it comes to transportation funding," said Roberts. "Through Mobility 21, we are making progress in building consensus and getting projects funded."

A main focus of this year's summit is the movement of goods from the region's ports, and the resulting truck traffic and rail congestion.

Mobility 21 also will cover a wide range of topics, including creating links between housing and transportation, strategic opportunities for transportation funding, improving traffic safety to reduce gridlock and save lives and Los Angeles as the center for global trade, transportation and economic growth.

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