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## Metro News Update: Board Actions, Orange Line, Red Line, Bus Lanes

(Oct. 1, 2004) September was a busy month for news affecting Metro. Here are updates on actions by the Board of Directors, a decision in Superior Court and other news.

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### Expansion Planned at Division 10

The Board of Directors adopted a motion at its September meeting to start an "eminent domain action" to acquire 21 parcels of land mostly along North Mission Road and Gallardo Street. The property, which flanks the west side of Gateway Division 10 and contains a number of auto glass and body shops, will be used to expand the division from 20.2 acres to 29 acres.

The expansion plan includes a new transportation building, a larger maintenance building, a new tire shop, new fueling lanes and a new retrieval area. The division also could accommodate maintenance and parking for 60-foot articulated buses. Construction is likely to begin next spring after the property's occupants have been relocated.

Opened in 1984, Division 10 currently has 234 parking spaces for buses and 250 spaces for employees. With the expansion, the division could provide parking for 335 buses and would have spaces for 450 employee vehicles. [\[Return to Top\]](#)

### Judge Refuses to Halt Orange Line Construction

A Superior Court judge refused to halt construction of the Metro Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley, Tuesday, but scheduled a hearing on the issue for Oct. 22.

Judge David Yaffe denied a request for a temporary restraining order by COST, a local opposition group. COST says the project should be halted because a study of the Metro Rapid system as a possible alternative to the transitway was not included in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

An earlier Court of Appeal ruling ordered Metro to add a study of Metro Rapid service to the EIR. It had not been included because it was still an unproven demonstration project when the EIR was being written. [\[Return to Top\]](#)

### City Council Votes on Subway Expansion

The Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously, Tuesday, in favor of actions that could lead to expansion of the Metro Red Line.

The vote approved a resolution by Councilman Tom LaBonge to rescind Proposition A, a measure approved by voters in 1998 that bans the use of local sales tax revenues for subway construction. Actually overturning Prop A would require another countywide vote.

LaBonge also wants to rescind a federal law, passed by Congress in 1985, that prohibits further tunneling under Wilshire Boulevard. Earlier plans had called for the subway to extend at least as far as the Fairfax district. [[Return to Top](#)]

### **Possible Development at Division 20**

The Board of Directors approved a motion at its September meeting authorizing CEO Roger Snoble to negotiate with a firm that wants to build 270 student housing units and a parking lot for 440 vehicles on about four acres of the 50-acre Metro Red Line Division 20.

The housing development would serve students at the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arch), just across Santa Fe Avenue from the rail yard. Both students and Metro employees would be permitted to use the parking lot.

The motion was amended to require a study of the feasibility of constructing a Metro Red Line station adjacent to Division 20 and the 4th Street Bridge. The developer would be required to pay for the study and for construction of the station. [[Return to Top](#)]

### **City Council Approves Wilshire Bus-Only Lanes**

The Los Angeles City Council approved a motion, Tuesday, making the bus-only lanes a permanent fixture on Wilshire Boulevard between Federal and Centinella avenues.

A demonstration project, begun last March, showed that buses traveling the one-mile segment saved up to six percent in travel times in the peak morning hours and up to 14 percent in the peak afternoon hours. Bus patrons also experienced greater service consistency.

Prior to implementation of the project, buses traveled the segment during peak hours in as little as four minutes or in as many as 12 minutes. [[Return to Top](#)]

### **38,500 Visit 'Metro Experience' at LA County Fair**

Some 38,500 kids and adults visited the "Metro Experience" mobile theater during the LA County Fair, which closed Sept. 26 following a 17-day run. Prior to the Fair, Metro distributed safety information to 80,000 pupils and 5,000 teachers.

"We received a lot of compliments about the wonderful things we're doing to help keep people safe," said Senior Community Relations Officer Barbara Burns, who heads Metro's Rail Safety program. Assisting with "Metro Experience" during the Fair were Community Relations Officer Carolos Valdez, Office Assistant Jennifer Mendoza and Intern Walter Gonzalez. [[Return to Top](#)]

### **Governance Councils Schedule October Meetings**

Metro's service sector governance councils have scheduled monthly public meetings in October to discuss various transit issues. Meeting locations and times are:

- San Fernando Valley Sector, Wednesday, Oct. 6, 6:30

p.m., Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center Community Room, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys.

- Westside/Central Sector, Thursday, Oct. 7, 3 p.m., La Cienega Tennis Center, Sunset Room, 325 S. La Cienega Blvd., Beverly Hills.
- South Bay Sector, Friday, Oct. 8, 9:30 a.m., Carson Community Center, 801 E. Carson St., Carson.
- San Gabriel Valley Sector, Tuesday, Oct. 12, 5 p.m., San Gabriel Sector Office, 3369 Santa Anita Ave., El Monte.
- Gateway Cities Sector, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2 p.m., The Gas Company, 9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey. [[Return to Top](#)]

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