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Nancy Michali, director of Service Performance and Analysis, (standing) discusses the Metro Connections program during a meeting of Gateway Cities sector officials and local transit operators and city representatives. Photo: David Hershenson



Gateway Cities Working with Local Transit Operators and Cities

By DAVID HERSHENSON

(Jan. 12, 2005) The Gateway Cities Service Sector has been hosting monthly meetings with transit providers and city representatives responsible for operating service in Southeast Los Angeles County.

The group first met in October to receive a briefing on the Metro Connections program and to get an update on Gateway Cities sector activities. The participants agreed that regular meetings would be beneficial to improved coordination between Metro and local service providers.

General Manager Alex Clifford is pleased with the progress of the meetings.

"We started these sessions with an overview of the Metro Connections program, which can only be successful with the participation of the various service providers in our region," he said.

"The discussions have expanded to include presentations from each of the participating transit operators and cities on their recent, current and future plans to improve bus service in the area," Clifford added. "It is beneficial for Metro, and the other participants, to be aware of what we are all working on, and to work together to provide an efficient and integrated transit system throughout our sector."

10 agencies participated

Representatives from Long Beach Transit, Norwalk Transit, Montebello Transit, Downey Link, Paramount Transit, The Lynwood Trolley Company, the City of Santa Fe Springs, Los Angeles County, Whittier Transit, and the Orange County Transit Authority have attended the meetings.

Jim Parker, who heads Norwalk Transit, one of the larger transit

providers in the Gateway Cities region, thinks the meetings have been very beneficial.

"Our Norwalk Transit System supports the Metro Gateway Service Sector efforts in providing a forum where transit agency stakeholders in the Southeast Region can discuss issues and ideas to work collectively to address the unmet transit needs in our region," said Parker.

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