


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom](#) (web)

[CEO Hotline](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/
Library](#)
[Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)

[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Retirement
Round-up](#)

Metro Info

[Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)

[Org Chart](#) (pdf)

[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

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Westside/Central Schedules 'Metro Connections' Workshop

By RICK JAGER

(Jan. 25, 2005) The Westside/Central Service Sector Governance Council will hold a workshop on Thursday, Feb. 3 to discuss Metro Connections.

Metro Connections is an innovative and comprehensive approach intended to "rethink" how transit service is provided in Los Angeles County.

Its goals are to improve customer service, better integrate various types of service provided by Metro and other local transit operators, and efficiently use taxpayer's dollars.

When implemented over the next two to three years, Metro Connections will be the first countywide, comprehensive restructuring of the region's bus system since 1980. The initial phase of the new service is planned for implementation during FY 2006.

The Governance Council workshop will begin at 3 p.m. at the La Cienega Tennis Center, 325 South La Cienega in Beverly Hills.

'Hub and spoke' system

The Metro Connections restructuring effort is intended to change the region's predominately downtown LA-focused grid system to a hybrid "hub and spoke" service delivery system that will better serve the region's many activity centers and destinations.

The restructuring will give the region an opportunity to plan how to deploy the county's transit resources to improve mobility, support economic development, maximize public investments in transportation infrastructure, maintain air quality improvements and enhance the quality of life for all residents.

The Westside/Central sector Governance Council workshop is one of a series of meetings that will be held to gather public input on the Metro Connections concept.

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