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Metro, Local Partners to get \$6.9 Million in Transit Security Funds

(April 13, 2005) Metro and two regional transit agencies will receive a total of \$6.9 million this year for transit security programs, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced Tuesday.

Metro will partner with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority's Metrolink in using \$4.8 million of the grant for rail security, and with the Orange County Transportation Authority in using \$2.1 million for bus security. The agencies are members of the Regional Transit Security Working Group.

The grants earmarked for Southern California were part of some \$141.6 million in transit security funding DHS will distribute to transit systems nationwide.

The San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose area will receive \$7 million for rail security and \$2 million for bus security. San Diego will receive \$2.1 million for rail security and \$550,000 for bus security. Sacramento will receive \$625,000 for rail security.

The largest security grant will go to the New York City/Jersey City/Newark area -- \$37.5 million for rail security and \$4.5 million for bus security.

In 2004, Metro also received \$5.4 in transit security grants, bringing the two-year total to \$12.3 million for use by Metro and the region's transit agencies.

Noting that the funds are intended for the protection of transit systems and the commuting public from terrorism, especially explosives and non-conventional threats, DHS executive Matt A. Mayer said the grants will be directed "toward the greatest risk while contributing to the overall security of our nation's transit systems."

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