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## [ Metro News Briefs ]

- [Eastside Funding](#), [Blood Drive](#), [Expo Line Board Decision](#)

### President Signs Appropriations Bill with Funds for LA

(Dec. 2, 2005) President Bush signed H.R. 3058 into law, Thursday, a 2006 appropriations bill that provides more than \$850 million in formula and discretionary funds for transportation needs in Los Angeles County.

The bill contains an "earmark" of \$80 million in New Starts funds for the Eastside Light Rail Line construction project that is consistent with Metro's Full Funding Grant Agreement.

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### Red Cross Blood Drive Scheduled Friday, Dec. 9, at Gateway

- Appointments still available noon to 3 p.m.

By JIMMY STROUP

(Dec. 2, 2005) Metro—with help from the American Red Cross—will hold an all-day blood drive on Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Four Red Cross nurses will help Metro employees donate blood in the Union Station Room, 3rd floor.

"A lot of people want to come down and give," said Corporate Safety Systems Manager Eddy Boghossian, who helped organize the event.

Boghossian expects the turnout to be good. People who have been tattooed within the past 12 months and those who have low iron counts should check with the nurses about their eligibility to donate.

Appointments are necessary. Contact Becky Quinteros @ 213-922-6865 or [quinterosb@metro.net](mailto:quinterosb@metro.net).

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### Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board Meeting

Read> [Expo Line Board](#) to Consider Environmental Recommendation

(Dec. 2, 2005) The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board voted in favor of an amended recommendation, Thursday, that the LACMTA Board approve the Locally Approved Alternative for the mid-city Westside Transit Corridor and the final environmental impact statement and report for the light rail project.

The Locally Approved Alternative includes a number of design options:

- An undercrossing between Jefferson Boulevard and Trousdale Parkway on the USC campus with an option for a future USC/Exposition Park Station near Kinsey Drive on the campus;
- La Brea aerial station and grade separation;
- La Cienega station 500-space parking facility on the southeast corner of Jefferson and La Cienega on the city-owned east central interceptor sewer construction staging site;
- Jefferson Boulevard northside widening at La Cienega Boulevard;
- Jefferson Boulevard grade separation near Ballona Creek; and
- Venice/Robertson at-grade interim station located east of National Boulevard within the Metro-owned Exposition Line right-of-way.

With the approved amendment, offered by Culver City Vice Mayor Gary Silbiger, the Expo Line Board's recommendation will:

Exclude an at-grade station at Venice/Robertson and at-grade crossings of Washington/National Boulevards from further consideration,

Continue to consider the aerial station at Venice/Robertson and the grade separation of Washington/National Boulevards and expressly certify the final EIS/EIR to include this aerial station option and,

Require the agency to continue to work with Culver City staff towards implementing the aerial station when funding becomes available.

The Expo Line Board also approved the contract for procurement support services with TEC Management Consultants, Inc. and carried over revisions to the Administrative Code until next month to incorporate several additional changes to the code.

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