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State Transportation Commission to Meet at Metro

- Villaraigosa, Yaroslavsky to urge funding of local projects

(March 8, 2006) Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, along with Metro officials, are scheduled to speak before the California Transportation Commission (CTC) when it meets, Thursday, in the Board Room at Metro Headquarters.

During the 10 a.m. meeting, Villaraigosa and Yaroslavsky are expected to urge the CTC to program \$315 million, which is the county's share of the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), for the Exposition Line project.

The commission will take up the request for the \$315 million at its April 27 meeting in Fresno. The commission also will consider an allocation of an additional \$208 million of Traffic Congestion Relief Program funds to the Exposition Line project at its March 16 meeting in Sacramento.

In total, \$523 million is being requested from CTC for the light rail project. If the CTC agrees, this would free up funds now slated for use in the Exposition Line project for other critical transportation improvements countywide.

CEO Roger Snoble is expected to make a presentation during the meeting about the effectiveness of the county's transportation improvement plan in meeting regional mobility needs.

Metro Construction Chief Rick Thorpe, who also is CEO of the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority, is scheduled to update the nine-member commission on the status of the Exposition Line project.