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Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

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► [Intranet Policy](#)

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Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa asked the California Transportation Commission to provide funding for the Exposition Line.



Photos: Bill Heard

Metro Officials Ask CTC to Fund Expo Line Construction

- Villaraigosa, Yaroslavsky speak in support of the funding

(March 10, 2006) Metro officials asked the California Transportation Commission, Thursday, to program \$523 million in state transportation funds for the Exposition Light Rail Line.

During the CTC's meeting in the Board Room, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said the first phase of the line, between downtown LA and Culver City, will carry an estimated 43,000 passengers after it opens in 2010.

Asking that the commission "take a good, strong look" at Metro's Exposition Line funding request, the mayor said, "We think it is critical that we invest in this kind of public transportation."

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, a member of the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board, as well as a Metro Board member, noted that the light rail line will "have a direct benefit on I-10 traffic."

"This is a very important project for our region," he said. "We owe it to the public to offer an alternative to having to sit in traffic."



CEO Roger Snoble and Metro Construction Chief Rick Thorpe, who also is CEO of the Construction Authority, underscored Villaraigosa's and Yaroslavsky's remarks with a presentation that explained the benefits and regional significance of funding the Exposition Line.

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky told the CTC that the Exposition Line project is very important for the region.

Funding for other projects

If the state fully funds Metro's request, other capital projects can be funded with money freed up from the previously established Exposition Line budget.

These could include transit and carpool lanes on I-405 northbound over the Sepulveda Pass, I-5 from Rt. 170 to 134, and I-10 from Puente to Citrus.



Mayor Villaraigosa addresses California Transportation Commission.

Their presentation showed a breakdown of the \$523 million funding request. It would include the \$315 million LA County share of the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and \$208 million in Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) funding.

The \$208 million was committed by the state legislature and governor in June 2000, but the CTC has been unable to meet that commitment until now, due to the state's General Fund deficits.

The CTC will take up Metro's request for the \$315 million at its April 27 meeting in Fresno. The commission also will consider the allocation of \$208 million in TCRP funds at its March 16 meeting in Sacramento.