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Exposition Construction Authority Board Approves Budget

(May 10, 2006) The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board approved the proposed \$118 million FY 2007 budget at its May meeting. The budget includes design-build contractor expenditures, Metro and Exposition Authority costs, utility relocation, real estate and right-of-way costs, professional services, third-party review and a \$2 million project contingency fund.

The Expo Board also approved three direct-hire staff positions for FY 2007 and the Metro Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU addresses Metro's ability to review any significant changes to the design or construction of the project, develop an agreement for use of all real property, right-of-way and other assets and describes funding sources and the financial relationship with Metro.

The Expo Board also adopted the Financial Institutions Resolution, which empowered designated officers to sign checks and perform banking services.

The next scheduled meeting is set for 2:30 p.m., Thursday, June 1.

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APTA Peer Review of Metro Transit Security Program

(May 10, 2006) At Metro's request, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) will conduct a "Peer Review" of the Metro Transit Security Program from May 15 through May 19.

The central purpose of the peer review is to assist the agency in defining an efficient and effective model for transit security that meets the objective of the Board's adopted security policy.

The peer review panel will consist of transit industry professionals who will examine each of the five organizational designs developed by the Metro staff for consideration as security program alternatives. The panel will discuss how each alternative might be expected to perform against stated objectives and industry best practices.

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Metro Ridership Gains in 2006

(May 10, 2006) In a recent interview with the Chicago Tribune, Metro reported that ridership in the first quarter of calendar 2006 increased 11.4 percent on Metro Rail and 7 percent on Metro Bus compared with first quarter of calendar 2005.

The higher ridership is a strong indication that more Los Angeles commuters were seeking relief from soaring gasoline prices, which, at \$3.25+ per gallon, now surpass the cost of the \$3 Metro Day Pass.

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Arthur Winston Honored on All Metro Vehicles

(May 10, 2006) Interior bus and rail cards are being installed on all Metro buses and rail cars. The cards are a celebration of the legacy of Author Winston.

Similar to the Rosa Parks car cards, these cards will commemorate Metro's "Employee of the Century" with his photograph and quote: "I guess if you take things day by day, you live long enough. And if you live long enough, you see things you never thought you'd see."

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Looking Back in Metro History

In May 1895, the Los Angeles and Pasadena Railway Company began operation of the area's first interurban line. The line linked Los Angeles to Pasadena 10 miles to the Northeast. Pasadena's population tripled in the decade following the opening of the line.

In May 1939, Union Station opened to passenger service. After a construction period of six years and an expenditure of \$11 million, the last great train station built in the U.S. attracted more than a half-million visitors to its three-day grand opening celebration. After a long period of declining passenger train travel, Union Station now stands revived, and serves as Southern California's largest transportation hub.

In May 1924, Pacific Electric held a groundbreaking ceremony at First Street and Glendale Boulevard for Los Angeles' first subway, a mile-long tunnel from Glendale and Beverly boulevards to 4th and Hill streets.

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--May 10, 2006