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CEO Roger Snoble gives members of the Beverly Hills Mass Transit Committee an overview of the current Metro Rail and Bus system and the various mobility and economic opportunities.

Beverly Hills Actively Considering Metro Red Line Extension

- Committee will advise BH City Council by year's end

(July 28, 2006) "Our traffic problems can only be solved by regional efforts. While there may be short-term solutions, they can only stem the tide for so long," Beverly Hills Mayor Steve Webb said last March. "There is only one long-term solution that will mitigate this problem: The expansion of the Red Line from downtown to the ocean."

Webb made those remarks as he assumed duties as the city's mayor and formed a Mass Transit Committee. The committee is charged with advising the Beverly Hills City Council on possible alignments and station locations for a westward subway extension from its current terminus at Wilshire/Western.

The committee began meeting in late May. It is composed of 15 community representatives appointed by the Beverly Hills City Council and chaired by former mayors Allan Alexander and Mark Eggerman. Metro Community Relations Manager Jody Litvak has been providing information and subject matter experts, as requested by the committee.

Metro Librarian Matt Barrett met with the committee early on to provide a history of various plans and ideas for mass transit in Beverly

Hills going back to the early 20th century.

David Mieger, Westside Area Team Planning Director, also met with the committee to discuss the details of the planning process that would be involved in extending the subway.



Community Relations DEO Lynda Bybee, in pink shirt, points out features of the Universal City station to members of the Beverly Hills Mass Transit Committee during a tour of the Metro Red Line.

Toured the Metro system

On Saturday, June 24, the committee toured the Metro system led by Litvak and Community Relations Deputy Executive Officer Lynda Bybee.

CEO Roger Snoble met the group during lunch and provided an overview of the current Metro Red Line, the various mobility and economic opportunities it has created, and answered numerous questions.

“Beverly Hills’ commitment to seriously consider this issue is very exciting,” said Snoble. “All roads and routes for any western extension lead through Beverly Hills and the city will play an important role in future decisions on the project.”

The tour began with a trip on the Wilshire Rapid 720 bus from Beverly Hills to the Wilshire/Normandie Metro Red Line station. The group also visited stations at 7th and Metro, Sunset/Vermont, Hollywood/Highland, Universal City, and Wilshire/Western before returning by Rapid Bus to Beverly Hills.

“We wanted them to experience the system and see a variety of stations,” said Bybee. “We also wanted to show them various stations at street level so they could begin to imagine different ways a subway could come into Beverly Hills.”

At each station, and along the tour, committee members noted various components of the Metro Red Line including station design,

stations with and without parking, bus connections, speed and reliability of service, cleanliness in the stations and on the train, safety and security features, development around the stations and more.

‘We were very impressed’

“Overall, we were very impressed with what we saw,” commented committee co-chair Allan Alexander.

The committee is also working with City Transportation staff and a transportation consultant to evaluate issues of circulation in Beverly Hills, alignment, station locations, current and future land use patterns in the city, and more.

In the future, the committee will discuss issues of construction and construction mitigation, safety and security, and local funding contributions. A tour of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension construction project is being planned.

The committee plans to wrap up its work and make its recommendations to the Beverly Hills City Council by the end of the calendar year.

“We understand that any decisions on a subway extension will be made by the Metro Board of Directors, and that funding from Sacramento and Washington, D.C. will be important,” said committee co-chair Mark Egerman. “We hope our report will help the City Council formulate recommendations as to the best possible alignment and station locations for the subway through Beverly Hills.”

*--From Jody Litvak
Photos by Howard Fischer*