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Using a map on his office conference table, CEO Roger Snoble points out Metro's current transit projects to Congressman Joe Knollenberg and his wife, Sandie.



Photos by Bill Heard

House Transportation Subcommittee Chairman Visits Metro

- Michigan congressman plays important role in federal transportation funding

(Aug. 31, 2006) The chairman of the House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, Michigan Congressman Joe Knollenberg, visited Metro on Wednesday to "get as close a look as I can" at LA's transportation system.

Following a tour of the Port of Los Angeles, Knollenberg was given an overview of Metro's current transit programs and capital projects by CEO Roger Snoble. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Supervisor Yvonne Burke and Metro Director Pam O'Connor also participated in the briefing.

Later, Knollenberg visited the Eastside Extension to view construction of the 1.7-mile twin tunnels. He



Looking out the window of this 25th floor office, CEO Roger Snoble describes the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension construction project to Michigan Congressman Joe Knollenberg, chairman of the House Transportation

was briefed on the Appropriations Subcommittee. status of the project by representatives of the contractor, Washington Group International, and then taken into the tunnel excavation area by Metro Construction Chief Rick Thorpe.

“You can learn a lot about what local people are doing to innovate and produce ideas that work. Ideas that people in the Midwest or the East might not be thinking about,” said Knollenberg. “As chairman of the subcommittee, I need to get as close a look as I can.”

The House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, which Knollenberg chairs, helps determine how federal dollars are spent on transportation projects nationwide.

Knollenberg, who has served 14 years in Congress, was named chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development in 2005. He represents Michigan’s 9th district, centered around Pontiac and the suburban towns northwest of Detroit.