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City Council Committee Votes to Suspend Wilshire Bus Lane

(Oct. 26, 2006) The LA City Council Transportation Committee approved a motion by Councilman Bill Rosendahl, Wednesday, to suspend the remaining portions of the Wilshire Boulevard bus lane in West Los Angeles to allow for peak period parking eastbound in the morning and westbound in the afternoon.

The full city council is expected to take up the matter at a later date.

Previous council action suspended the bus lane in the two-block segment between Barrington and Federal Avenues with the condition that no further portions would be removed, peak period parking would not be reinstated, and the segment would be automatically restored when the bus lane extension to the Veterans Administration property went into effect.

Members of the LADOT staff testified that installation of the bus lane, which was accomplished by removing peak period parking, did initially improve travel flow. They said removal of the bus lane without a reinstatement of parking would lead to greater travel improvements.

Councilmember Wendy Greuel requested a report from LADOT on the issues surrounding removal of the bus lane, the criteria for its reinstatement, and information from Metro regarding efforts to extend the bus lane in other areas.

Sen. Boxer to Speak at Mobility 21 Annual Summit, Oct. 30

(Oct. 26, 2006) U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer has been confirmed as the keynote speaker at the 2006 Mobility 21 Summit, scheduled Monday, Oct. 30 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City. She will be joined by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and other key officials to discuss solutions to the region's traffic problems.

More than 500 are expected to attend the fifth annual summit, which will focus on such topics as the \$280 billion-plus in federal funding authorized through 2009 for surface transportation programs and highway safety. The infrastructure bonds on the ballot in California, and public-private partnerships for financing new construction projects also will be discussed in breakout sessions.

At the luncheon, the 2006 Julian C. Dixon Award will be presented to an individual or organization that has improved mobility in LA County.

Mobility 21 will be presented by Metro, the LA Area Chamber of Commerce and the Automobile Club of Southern California.

South Korean Delegation Gets Firsthand Look at Metro

(Oct. 26, 2006) A seven-member delegation from South Korea's Ministry of Construction and Transportation and the Korea Transport Institute visited Metro headquarters, Oct. 20.

The delegation specifically chose to visit Los Angeles after learning about the Metro Rapid system, as well as about Metro's efforts to promote transit-oriented development.

Following briefings, the delegation embarked on a series of site visits throughout LA County. They included a firsthand look at the joint development project currently under construction at the Wilshire/Vermont Metro Rail station.

Bus Operator Job Fair Scheduled Nov. 4

(Oct. 26, 2006) Metro will conduct a job fair at Metro Headquarters from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 4, to recruit bus operators. The agency is searching for part-time operators to meet the region's growing demand for public transportation.

But operator positions offer a salary of \$10.30 per hour during a six-week training course, and \$13.36 per hour when the trainee has completed the course and begins work. In addition, new operators are eligible for medical, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits.

In prior years, the career fair has generated 200 to 300 applications.