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The seven-member delegation of German legislators, led by Heike Dederer, center, toured transportation facilities in Long Beach and Los Angeles before moving on to San Antonio, Tex.



Photo by Bill Heard

## German Legislators Take a Look at LA's Traffic Solutions

(Dec. 1, 2006) Seven German state legislators and their staff were given the full Metro experience, Thursday, during a tour demonstrating how Los Angeles is trying to cope with traffic congestion and air pollution.

The legislators, who belong to three of Germany's five major political parties, are members of governments in Hamburg, Berlin, Bavaria and four other states. Most are members of their legislative transportation committees or are involved in discussions on transportation issues.

During their day in LA, the delegation toured the Metro Blue, Green, Orange and Gold Lines. They also rode Metro Rapid buses on Wilshire and visited the transit-oriented development at Hollywood and Highland.

The Bus Operations Center (BOC) also was a stop of major relevance to the group, which was particularly interested in the traffic surveillance camera system – currently an important issue in Germany.

"We have problems in Germany similar to those in the United States – how to handle mass traffic and how to handle air pollution. That's why we're here to talk about solutions," said Heike Dederer, a former member of the Baden-Württemberg legislature and head of the delegation. "We want to make our transport systems, our Metro, more efficient."

Earlier, the delegation had visited Long Beach and, next, they're heading to San Antonio, Tex., and the National Conference of State Legislatures to talk with their American counterparts about transportation issues.

Marisa Yeager and Helen Valenzuela of Government Relations coordinated the tour at the request of Director Bonnie Lowenthal. Metro presenters were Wilbur Babb of Metro Rail, Heather Hills and Martha Butler of Regional Planning, Tom Jasmin of BOC, Roger Moliere of New Business Development, and Gary Spivack of East Valley Division 15.

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