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## California Transportation Commission OKs \$822.8 Mill. for LA County

By KIM UPTON

(June 12, 2007) Los Angeles County will receive \$822.8 million from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and Caltrans to address critical transportation needs, including highway safety and rehabilitation projects, purchase of new light rail cars and traffic congestion relief.

The June 7 decisions concern funds either committed or released in five actions:

- Adopted the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program Augmentation
- Metro had requested \$477 million from Proposition 1B funds available through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). CTC approved \$475 million for LA County to use to fund a variety of projects. They include the I-10 El Monte Busway extension east to Route 57 (\$105 million), Exposition Line Phase II (\$84 million), and the purchase of AnsaldoBreda 2550 light rail cars (\$118 million).
- Accepted the Caltrans State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP)
- CTC accepted Caltrans selected projects representing \$500 million in Proposition 1B funds. The projects include \$150 million to be used primarily for LA County safety and rehabilitation projects on I-710 from Imperial Highway to Slauson Avenue, and on I-10 from the 710 to I-5.
- Authorized repayment of \$150 million to Metro for funds previously advanced by Metro for bus purchases
- Because the State Traffic Congestion Relief Program was suspended due to the General Fund crisis in 2002, Metro advanced what was to be \$150 million from regional funds for purchase of buses mandated by the Consent Decree. Highway projects that were deferred for bus purchases can now move forward.
- Released \$16.4 million in Traffic Congestion Relief Funds for the Route 71 Mission Boulevard Interchange project in Pomona
- Released \$31.375 million in State Interregional Improvement Program funds for the Glendale Grade Separation Project in Glendale

