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Mobility 21 to Focus on Beating Traffic Congestion, Improving Air Quality

- Five Southern California counties to unite in regional effort

(Nov. 2, 2007) Key industry officials will discuss solutions to beating traffic congestion and improving air quality, Monday, at the Sixth Annual Southern California Transportation Summit – the first Mobility 21 alliance that will bring together five Southern California counties.

The summit, to be held at the Ontario Convention Center, will focus on drafting plans to help the region attract more state and federal dollars for transportation projects and building consensus in an area roughly the size of Florida in population.

California Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata and Dale E. Bonner, Secretary of the California Business, Transportation & Housing Authority, will kick off the meeting with elected officials and business, transportation and community leaders representing the region's 17 million residents.

CEO Roger Snoble and Metro Board Director Bonnie Lowenthal will represent the agency at the summit, scheduled from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the convention center.

Past summits for Mobility 21 – an organization dedicated to solving Southern California mobility challenges – have focused primarily on Los Angeles County.

Infrastructure funding

Summit participants are expected to discuss infrastructure funding in Southern California, an issue widely agreed to be critical to the economy, environment and quality of life of those who live and work in the region.

Other topics will include how the region can meet air quality standards and address the climate change challenge, as well as pragmatic solutions for reducing congestion in Southern California.

During the past five years, the Mobility 21 coalition has brought to national attention to such significant issues as:

- The growth in goods movement through the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and its effect on freeway traffic and air pollution;
- The importance of housing and business construction along transportation corridors; and
- The need to protect Proposition 42 state gas tax funds so they are used for transportation improvements as they were intended.

Ideas from the summit will be incorporated into the Mobility 21 plan of action for the coming year.