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Metro Board Chair Pam O'Connor answers questions online during 'live chat' on metro.net.



Photo: Gayle Anderson

Second Online Chat Explores Metro's Sustainability Efforts

- Board Chair Pam O'Connor hosts digital town meeting

By NED RACINE

(Dec. 13, 2007) Revolving around a theme of reducing Los Angeles County's carbon footprint, Metro Chair Pam O'Connor held a second online chat yesterday with Metro riders and transit advocates.

The hour-long internet exchange began at noon and allowed Gateway staff members to monitor the digital town meeting. Questions and answers from the chat are available in the [chat room archives](#) at metro.net.

Questions ranged from what buses O'Connor uses—Big Blue Bus, Metro Wilshire Rapid and DASH—to why Metro still operates some diesel buses—Venice Division 6 has no space for a compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling facility.

O'Connor answered 25 questions, some of which had been posted on Metro's chat site before the event. She explained the work of the Board's Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee and defined "sustainability" as "the need to ensure that we meet our current needs—environmental, economic and social—without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same."

A number of questions touched on the possibility of Metro's receiving more funding for expansion of the Metro System. O'Connor also explained Metro

Orange Line’s right-of-way on Chandler Boulevard and whether the subway will go to a 24-hour schedule.

Several times the Board Chair asked participants to call her “Pam” rather than “Ms. O’Connor.” And while the online conversation touched on immediate concerns and long-range plans, she also found time to share her conflicted loyalties when USC plays Illinois in the Rose Bowl. (O’Connor grew up in Illinois.)

O’Connor will host the next chat at noon, Wednesday, Jan. 23.