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Board Chair Pam O'Connor's Third Chat Proves Short But Sweet

- Computer outage ends chat after 20 minutes

By NED RACINE, Editor

(Jan. 24, 2008) Continuing her digital Town Hall meetings, Metro Chair Pam O'Connor held her third hour-long chat yesterday at noon. More questions were received for this chat than any other. If only that computer hadn't blown out.

Limited to 20 minutes by the loss of a server at an offsite location, the chat still discussed congestion reduction pricing, funding shortfalls and the possibility of tracking buses through the internet. O'Connor asked chat members to "dream about ways we can create a better future."

Noting that many of the questions submitted explored ideas for paying for new transit projects, O'Connor asked participants to submit their ideas on a half-cent sales tax, public/private partnerships, toll roads and parking fees.

"Like other transit agencies around the country, Metro anticipates a massive funding shortfall," O'Connor wrote in her introduction to the chat. "The State is also operating in the red."

Congestion reduction pricing generated several questions. O'Connor explained that not all highways were being considered for congestion reduction pricing. She also explained that one of the idea's goals would be "to make the carpool/vanpool lanes run faster so that it's actually worth it to use one."

Other participants asked for more transportation options free of fossil fuels, an expanded park-and-ride facility in the San Gabriel Valley and a "motorcycle only" lane on highways to reduce congestion.

The questions O'Connor answered are available at the [Metro Interactive Chat](#) archives on metro.net.

In February O'Connor will answer questions she could not answer in the abbreviated chat yesterday. The next chat will be held in March.