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## Metro Hosts Symposium on Congestion Pricing Options

(April 24, 2008) Metro hosted an introductory symposium on Congestion Pricing Options for Los Angeles County yesterday, which drew nearly 100 attendees representing transportation agencies and the offices of elected officials.

Carol Inge, chief planning officer, and Ashad Hamideh, transportation planning manager, presented:

- Concepts of congestion pricing
- Initiatives within Los Angeles County
- Examples of successful implementation in the United States and abroad

The presentations were followed by a robust question and answer session, facilitated by Lynda Bybee, DEO Regional Communications. Joining Inge and Hamideh in answering questions were Frank Quon, deputy director, Caltrans Operations District 7, and Rich Macias, interim director, planning for the Southern California Association of Governments.

Discussion items included the experiences of London and San Diego, the level of environmental and business community support for congestion pricing, criteria for selecting toll road locations and assigning prices, capacity and equity issues, and how to ensure that toll revenues are used to support transit use.

"Even though this was our kickoff meeting, the participants took a big step toward establishing the partnership we'll need as we proceed," said Bybee, whose staff organized the symposium.

At its meeting today, the Board approved a consultant contract to develop a Congestion Pricing Operating Plan for Los Angeles County. This will include at least three options for implementing congestion pricing in Los Angeles County by 2010. Each option would feature a concurrent and extensive public education and outreach program.