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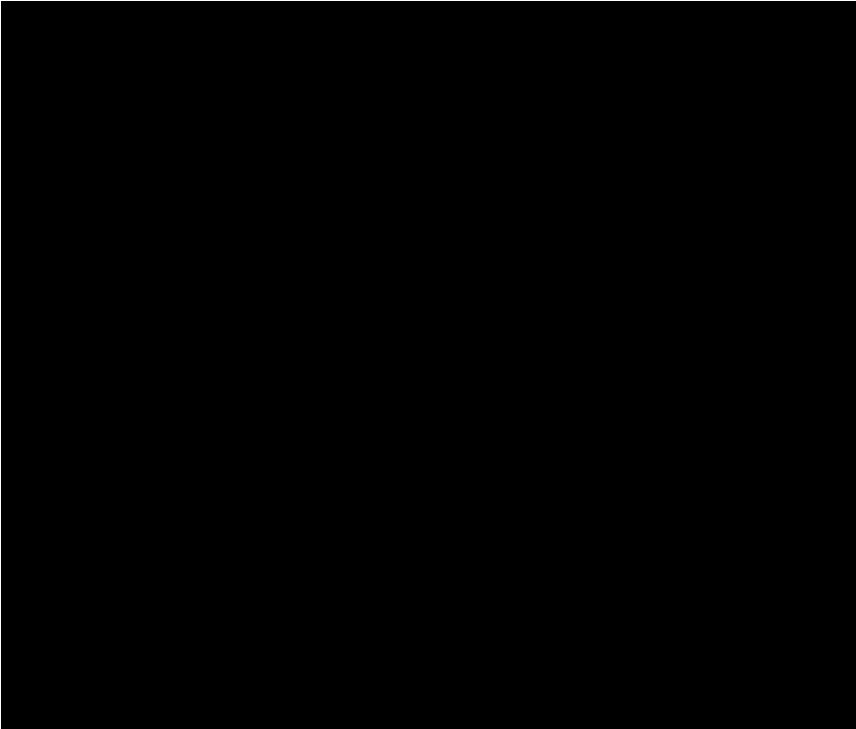
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Video by Rich Morallo. Not hooked up to YouTube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klvhH9xR6o4> NOTE: This YouTube link is being sent to you for the purpose of viewing the Metro video only. Metro employees are subject to the Employee Code of Conduct that generally restricts the use of company time/equipment to conducting Metro business. Please click on icon above to view the video.

Metro programs and projects promoted at Supervisor Ridley-Thomas 2010 Annual Summit and Empowerment Congress at Cal State Dominguez Hills

By Rich Morallo
Community Relations Manager & Volunteer Coordinator

(Jan. 19, 2010) Setting up shop at the recent 2010 Annual Empowerment Congress Summit at Cal State Dominguez Hills, Metro Senior Diversity and Economic Opportunity Representative Sherman Gay came prepared to “talk transit” with visitors to the event, hosted by Los Angeles County 2nd District Supervisor and Metro Board member Mark Ridley-Thomas.

"I go to a lot of city [events] and county fairs," explained Gay, who serves as part of a team of Metro staffers, consultants and volunteers promoting Metro and its bus and rail services at a year-long calendar of events across the Southland.

While Gay spent the first dry day of his week talking with small companies on the ins-and-outs of becoming certified as a Metro vendor, Ronni Jackson and Camilla Dennis manned another table, talking up Metro’s Rider Relief Transportation Program.

"Discount coupons are provided to low-income families so they can save

money on various county transit passes," explained Jackson, a program manager with FAME Assistance Corp., a non-profit group that works primarily to cultivate economic development in South Los Angeles.

A few tables down, Metro volunteer Bob Thomas prepared stacks of bus and train maps to hand-out to interested potential bus and rail riders.

As Thomas busied himself with the colorful transit system maps, schedules and promotional magnets, Ginny Brideau a project lead with The Robert Group, a public affairs agency, detailed the pedestrian improvement, safety and beautification plan for the Rosa Parks Metro Blue Line Station for several interested passers-by.

Throughout the day hundreds of attendees visited the Metro tables and participated in general assembly meetings on subjects including local and regional economic development, housing, transportation, health and environment, and safety and break-out transit-focused workshops.

One panel featured Metro Transportation Planning Manager Roderick Diaz, who spoke on the latest developments regarding the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor project.

"I enjoyed coming to this empowerment workshop," said Inglewood City Council member Ralph Franklin and chair for the Metro South Bay Governance Council.

Picking up transit maps and pamphlets, Anjela Gomez, staff member in the Los Angeles County Office of Education, said, "The freeway system isn't always accessible but the bus routes are always accessible and on time."