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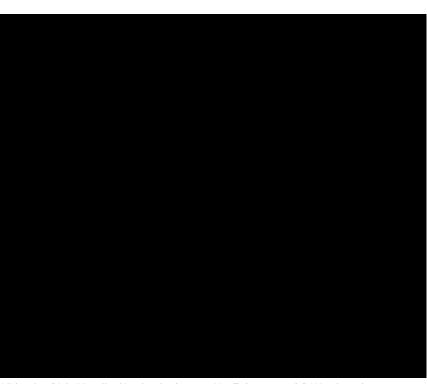
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Video by Rich Morallo. Not hooked up to YouTube at work? Watch at home at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHAB-zXTFs0&feature=email NOTE: This YouTube link is being sent to you for the purpose of viewing the Metro video only. Metro employees are subject 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 Citizens Advisory Council Field Transit Questions at Health Fest

By Rich Morallo

Community Relations / Volunteer Coordinator

(April 26, 2010) Hundreds of curious downtown employees visited the Metro information table at April 8 Health Fest in the Hahn Hall of Administration courtyard.

"There were typically three kinds of questions we got on public transportation," said Tony Banash, a member of the Metro Citizens Advisory Council (CAC).

"First, people wanted to know how to get from one location to another. Second, they asked about how their passes can be subsidized or discounted and, third, they wanted to know when the next major transit project is opening."

Banash was joined by Wally Shidler, who, like Banash, serves on Metro's Gateway Cities Governance Council.

Both joined the CAC about four years ago and are familiar figures, frequently manning Metro information tables at many community events.

"It's important to us to get out into the neighborhoods so we can get direct feedback from the public," said Shilder, who rides Metro every day. "We answered questions on bus passes and advised people on specific travel plans."

Every Metro Board member can appoint up to four persons to the CAC, which convenes its monthly general assembly on the Wednesday before each Metro Board meeting.

The CAC collects public input and communicates its recommendations on transportation programs to the Board and recently supported classifying the Expo Line Phase II environmental impact report and the underground Little Tokyo/Arts District Station and portal as Board "alternatives under consideration.

"We enjoy talking and explaining the Metro system, especially to people who feel it is 'not safe' or 'convenient,'" said Shidler.

Quick to agree, Banash added, "I thrive on being able to interface with our constituents."

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