

MTA, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Hold First General Meeting of Mobility-21 Coalition

- **Coalition of Stakeholders Seeks Solutions, Funding For L.A. County's Transportation Needs**

(Los Angeles) - Seizing on the resolve generated by last fall's historic Mobility-21 transportation summit, the Mobility-21 Coalition held its first general meeting as it pursues consensus and funding for practical solutions to L.A. County's transportation challenges. MTA and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce were joint sponsors of the Nov. 18 summit.

"The Mobility-21 summit framed the transportation issues we face as a region and served as a call to action," said Roger Snoble, MTA CEO and Mobility-21 Co-Chair. "In this time of budget deficits and limited transportation funding, the work of Mobility-21 looms even larger."

"This first general meeting of the Mobility-21 Coalition further refined L.A. County's transportation priorities and it ensures that we will speak with one voice when we travel to Sacramento and Washington, D.C. in search of additional funding," he added.

In addition to state and federal legislative updates, the general meeting included a presentation on the potential impacts to available funding for transportation projects and programs of California's \$35 billion budget deficit.

"I am pleased that the business community, political leaders and community organizations are coming together, united around lobbying for transportation priorities for our region," said Rusty Hammer, President & CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and Mobility-21 Co-Chair.

"The Mobility-21 Coalition truly represents our county mobilizing together to make an impact, in partnership with our elected officials, in Sacramento and Washington," Hammer added.

The meeting concluded with endorsement of a resolution on the state budget deficit that included the following principles:

- Long term and immediate preservation of transportation funds including Proposition 42, the State Highway Account, and other funds including repayment of loans and suspensions.
- Preservation of funds for Los Angeles County transportation projects.
- Establishment of priority for projects that are ready to be implemented.

- Explore additional statewide revenues that would offset any reductions in transportation funding. The revenue options may include but are not limited to a temporary or permanent increase in the state gas tax, authorization for specified local transportation agencies to impose user fees for transportation, and ensuring that existing funds, and any new transportation funds, are not transferred to, or used for, other purposes.
- Support reduction of the voter threshold for passage of local transportation sales taxes and explore an increase in the Los Angeles County transportation sales tax in order to fund additional transportation projects.
- Support legislation or administrative actions that enhance the state's ability to support the TCRP projects and programs and provides funding priority to projects that are in the more advanced stages of project development.

In addition, stakeholders endorsed the State of California and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Consensus Principles for Reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) and unanimously approved a resolution in support of efforts to secure funding for a series of regional projects in the federal government's FY 03 and FY 04 transportation appropriations bills including:

Fiscal Year 2003 –

- \$40 million in funding for the Metro Red Line Segment 3, North Hollywood project consistent with the North Hollywood MOS-3 federal Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) and the MTA's Restructuring Plan
- Funding for MTA and Los Angeles County Municipal Operators for clean fuel buses and for bus maintenance facilities improvements
- \$10 million - \$35 million in funding for Eastside Light Rail Project
- \$2 million in funding for Job Access/Reverse Commute programs in Los Angeles County
- Funding for Metrolink's commuter rail double tracking project between the cities of Claremont and Pomona

Fiscal Year 2004 –

- \$70 million in funding for the Eastside Light Rail Project
- \$20 million in funding for the Exposition Light Rail Project
- \$20 million in funding for MTA for clean fuel buses and for bus maintenance facilities improvements and support of funding for Los Angeles County Municipal Operators for similar improvements
- \$5 million of ITS funding for the Universal Fare System
- Work to secure funding for completion of necessary freeway improvements on the I-5 Freeway from the I-605 to the I-710

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[\[Return to Home\]](#)