

Metro News Pressroom

August 26, 2004

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro CEO Orders Work to Resume on Metro Orange Line

- Eleven Uncompleted Intersections are 'Immediate Focus'

(Los Angeles) – Metro Chief Executive Officer Roger Snoble today ordered Shimmick/Obayashi, the contractor for the Metro Orange Line transitway project, to resume construction immediately. Snoble's action followed notification from the Court of Appeal late Wednesday that it would not issue any further rulings on an earlier appeal by Metro, thereby lifting a stay on construction it imposed on Aug. 2.

"As of this morning, we have removed the 'stop work' order on the Metro Orange Line construction," CEO Roger Snoble reported at Thursday's Metro Board of Directors meeting. "The contractor will be back on the job this afternoon."

Today's order by Snoble authorized Shimmick/Obayashi to hire new employees to return the Metro Orange Line project to full construction as quickly as possible. Snoble said the contractor's "immediate focus" would be on completing 11 intersections left unfinished following the Aug. 2 stay ordered by the Court of Appeal. Priority would be given to those areas where motorists and businesses have been most impacted by the halt on construction.

The \$330 million project has been on hold for 24 days, leaving an uncompleted construction site that stretches from the North Hollywood Metro Red Line subway station 14 miles west to Warner Center.

As construction is set to resume, attorneys for the agency will proceed with an appeal to the California Supreme Court. The high court will be asked to overturn a Court of Appeal ruling requiring the agency to study Metro Rapid bus service as an alternative to the Metro Orange Line. A Metro Rapid alternative was not included in the original Environmental Impact Report (EIR) because at the time the EIR was being written Metro Rapid was only a demonstration project.

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