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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro to Receive Additional Transit Security Funds

Metro and two regional transit agencies will receive a total of \$6.9 million this year for transit security programs, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The announcement, made this week, will partner Metro with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink) in using \$4.8 million of the grant funding for rail security and with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) in using \$2.1 million for bus security. The agencies are members of the Regional Transit Security Working Group.

"This is welcome news for Metro and the region's other transportation agencies as we strive to provide the best and safest transit system possible," said Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board Chairman Frank Roberts. "In these financially challenging times, this additional funding for transit security is greatly appreciated."

The grants earmarked for Southern California were part of a total of \$141.6 million in transit security funding DHS plans to distribute this year to transit systems nationwide.

In 2004, Metro also received \$5.4 million in transit security grants, bringing the two-year total to \$12.3 million for use by Metro and the region's transit agencies.

In allocating the funds to Metro and two regional transit agencies, DHS noted that they are intended for the protection of transit systems and the commuting public from terrorism, especially explosives and non-conventional threats.

Metro currently contracts with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) to provide transit security on all Metro Buses and Metro Rail trains.

"Metro has placed security of its transit system and its patrons as a top priority and we intend to utilize these funds to further enhance our security program," said LASD Captain Dan Finkelstein, Metro's Chief of Police.

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