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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro Citizens' Advisory Council Names Person of the Year

Former California State Senator James R. Mills, largely responsible for the rebirth of light rail transit in the United States, has been selected as the "Person of the Year" by the Metro Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC).

Senator Mills will be honored at a luncheon scheduled for 11:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 2 in the Metro Board Conference Room located on the Third Floor of Metro's Headquarters Building, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles.

Senator Mills was President Pro Tem of the Senate for ten years. As a state senator, Mills introduced bills which imposed sales tax on gasoline to fund transportation development, allowed a portion of state highway funds to be used to build guideway systems, and set up funds for multimodal projects.

This is the second year that the CAC has recognized a "Person of the Year," an honor recognizing individuals who has significantly contributed to improving public transportation. Last year's recipient was Congressman Adam Schiff.

A San Diego native, Senator Mills served in the State Assembly from 1960 to 1966 when he was elected to the State Senate. During his 16 years with the Senate, Mills served as Chairman of the Transportation Committee, the Elections and Reappointment Committee, the Rules Committee and the Democratic Caucus.

In 1977 President Jimmy Carter appointed Senator Mills to the Amtrak Board of Directors and Mills served as chairman of its board from 1980 to 1981. Mills is an ex-official board member of both San Diego Trolley and San Diego Transit. The senator also served as Chairman of the Los Angeles-San Diego Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN) which oversees the implementation of additional intercity rail passenger service and the necessary track improvements.

California Governor George Deukmejian appointed Senator Mills to San Diego's Metropolitan Transit Development Board in 1984, and Mills serviced as the board chair from 1985 to 1994.

Mills was curator of the Serra Museum, taught in the public school system, and has written a number of books including a history book of San Diego.

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