

**July 11, 2007**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Statement from Santa Monica City Council Member and Metro Board Chair Pam O'Connor: RE: Repeal of Congressional Provision Prohibiting Use of Federal Funds for Tunneling Along the Wilshire Corridor**

Metro is pleased that the House Committee on Appropriations voted today to pass a transportation funding bill for Fiscal Year 2008 that includes language repealing a two decade old ban on subway tunneling along the Wilshire Corridor. This prohibition, enacted by Congress in 1986, strictly prohibited the use of federal funds for subway construction along the busy Wilshire corridor.

This represents a huge step as Metro begins planning for the future. This development in Washington, DC also increases Metro's transportation alternatives as we strive to improve the mobility of the region.

Metro is deeply appreciative of Congressman Waxman's efforts to include this language reversing the subway tunneling ban in the House version of the transportation funding bill. We look forward to having this provision included in the final transportation funding bill that is signed into law later this year.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to consider its transportation spending bill for Fiscal year 2008 tomorrow.

**Metro-125**