



Metro

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Senate Panel Clears SAFETEA-LU Corrections Bill

This morning, the U.S. Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee approved a measure that makes technical corrections to last year's Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act (SAFETEA-LU). The bill primarily consists of minor description changes to various highway projects around the country. In addition, the legislation extends the life of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission by six months, to December 31, 2007. The Commission, which was created by SAFETEA-LU, is charged with reviewing the current condition and future needs of the nation's transportation system, including examining future revenue sources to support the Highway Trust Fund. It should be noted that the measure passed today does not address transit issues, as the Environment and Public Works Committee has jurisdiction over the Federal Aid Highway Program and not the Transit Program. The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Federal Transit Administration, may mark up its own SAFETEA-LU corrections bill, although the timing of such action in the final weeks of the 109th Congress is unclear.

Senate Adopts Mass Transit Amendment to Port Security Bill

Late last night, the U.S. Senate unanimously adopted an amendment by Senators Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Paul Sarbanes (D-MD) that authorizes nearly \$3.5 billion for transit security. The amendment was added to port security legislation (H.R. 4954) that seeks to codify existing port security programs at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and establish protocols to resume trade in the event of a catastrophic event affecting a domestic port. The Shelby/Sarbanes amendment would create a \$2.4 billion transit security grant program for capital improvements in Fiscal Year 2007 and authorize another \$1 billion through Fiscal Year 2009 for various operational improvements. A separate rail security

amendment by Senator John McCain (R-AZ) is expected to be considered and voted on later today. It should be noted that the House version of the port security bill does not include the transit security grant program, which will render this issue subject to final negotiations by House-Senate conferees.

Latest Metro Customer Satisfaction Survey

Media relations distributed a [news release](#) today highlighting recent Customer Satisfaction Survey results that show that increased numbers of people who have cars available to them are nevertheless taking Metro. The new poll of 15,752 riders indicates that the percentage of Metro riders who have transportation alternatives who choose to take public transit continued to rise from 22% in 2002 to 34% in 2006. Customers also reported that they feel increasingly secure on the Metro system. 83%, a record high, said they feel safe at Metro bus stops and rail stations and almost 9 of 10 customers (88%) said they feel safe while riding the system. Media relations staff conducted an interview with Spanish language TV station Ch. 62 regarding the customer survey. The story is expected to air tonight.

Of Note

On this day in 1984, the City of Los Angeles committed an initial \$34 million towards the construction cost of the first 4.4 mile segment of the Southern California Rapid Transit District's Metro Rail (now Metro Red Line) project. This funding commitment brought the project one step closer to its Federal Full Funding Grant Agreement and the line's 1986 groundbreaking.

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