

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net \(web\)](#)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom \(web\)](#)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance \(web\)](#)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

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at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

[Metro News Briefs]

In this report:

- [Transportation Commission OKs Funds](#)
- [Updated Metro Writing Guide](#)
- [Former Bus Operator Sentenced](#)

Transportation Commission OKs Funds for Expo and I-105 Ramp

(Sept. 6, 2007) The California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved two allocations of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds, Wednesday, that will benefit Metro projects.

The allocations include \$314.6 million for the Exposition Line Phase I project between downtown LA and Culver City. The total cost of the project is about \$640 million.

The CTC also voted \$7.6 million for the westbound I-105 off-ramp at Sepulveda Boulevard, a key link to LAX.

"It's good news," David Yale, deputy executive officer for regional planning, told the LA Times. "And it's good to see the state keeping its promises."

During the CTC meeting, representatives from Caltrans said previously assumed "spillover" funds from higher state fuel tax revenues would be reduced by 50 percent for over five years.

The CTC also was told that undetermined but substantial reductions to the STIP are possible from the impact of the diminishing Federal Highway Trust fund. The 2008 STIP Fund Estimate will be adopted by the CTC in October.

[< Top](#)

Updated Metro Writing Guide Now on Employee Intranet

(Sept. 6, 2007) An updated Metro Writing Guide, which seeks to promote consistency in the agency's written communications, is now available on the employee Intranet.

The 16-page document provides basic guidelines for correct use of Metro bus and rail service names and consistent terminology for use in written materials.

"Metro communicates in writing with customers, stakeholders and the general public in a variety of ways," said Warren Morse, deputy

executive officer of Communications. "Our message is strengthened if we can be as clear and consistent as possible in all of our written materials."

To access the Metro Writing Guide, click on the "Forms Online" link on the myMetro.net home page and then on the "Metro Writing Guide" link in the Metro Business Tools section.

The writing guide includes rules for when to use the agency's formal title – Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority – and examples of when to use "Metro."

Rules and examples of transit service names such as "Metro Local," "Metro Rapid Express" and "Metro Liner" are provided, along with the proper usage for other bus and rail line names.

The writing guide also covers punctuation and place names, along with terminology and usage guidelines for Metro facilities and position titles, among others. A series of writing tips also is included.

[< Top](#)

Former Bus Operator Sentenced for Stealing Day Passes

(Sept. 6, 2007) A former bus operator accused of stealing Metro day passes was sentenced in LA Superior Court, Sept. 4, to three years of formal probation and five weeks of community service.

Yolanda Blackshire, 52, of Los Angeles, who retired Aug. 3 after almost 25 years' service, had pleaded guilty to two felonies for stealing day passes while assigned to Gateway Division 10.

She allegedly gave them to a co-conspirator to sell on the street. The co-conspirator, Robert Sanches, 42, of Los Angeles, was sentenced to two years in state prison for receiving stolen property and conspiracy to commit grand theft.

Blackshire will serve community service with the Cal Trans Community Service Project. A restitution hearing will be scheduled to determine how much she could be ordered to pay Metro.

[< Top](#)