



Metro

Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble
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Federal Transit Chief to Step Down

On Tuesday July 26th President Bush nominated FTA Administrator Jenna Dorn to serve as one of two United States representatives on the Board of the World Bank.

If confirmed by the Senate, Dorn will leave FTA immediately following confirmation. It is uncertain who will eventually be nominated to replace her, nor is it clear who will serve as Acting Administrator when her position is vacant.

Dorn, who has led the FTA since the beginning of the Bush Administration, played a major role in developing and approving the Full Funding Grant Agreement for the Eastside light rail project.

Metro Orange Line Interview

Media Relations facilitated a recorded staff audio interview for Etopia Media News Networks, an online news site, on the Metro Orange Line. Staff provided an update on construction of the transitway, detailing features of new Metro Liner vehicles and the 14-mile transitway. The interview will be available as a downloadable audio file on the network's web site at www.etopiamedia.net

Orange Line Construction Update

On July 22, 2005 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) subcontractor Romero General Construction Corporation advised prime contractor Shimmick Obayashi, Joint Venture (SOJV) that they would suspend all further construction work pending resolution of a billing dispute regarding payment for crushed sand and gravel base material that is placed underneath asphalt and concrete paving and sidewalks.

The same day, SOJV submitted a formal written request to schedule a hearing to consider a formal substitution of Romero on the grounds that Romero "failed or refused to perform its subcontract." On July 25, 2005, Romero, through its attorney, has objected to the substitution request on the grounds that it is premature because SOJV has failed to first utilize the alternate dispute resolution procedures set forth in the contract between Metro and SOJV.

Finally, Romero has indicated that it may seek judicial relief to enjoin any such substitution. The matter is under review by Metro's legal counsel. At this stage of the project, if this issue cannot be resolved promptly between the parties and/or a substitution approved quickly, the project completion schedule may be at risk.

New Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee Appointments

Los Angeles City Council President Alex Padilla released the 2005-2007 City Council Committee Assignments on Friday. While agenda items of interest to Metro can appear on several of the City Council's 22 committees, the greatest number of items appear on the Transportation Committee agenda. For that committee, Councilmember (CD 2) Wendy Greuel is appointed as the new chair, Councilmember (CD 8) and Metro Board Member Bernard Parks as the vice chair, and Councilmember (CD 12) Greig Smith as the third member and the only member continuing from the previous legislative session. These appointments also continue the recent practice of at least one councilmember, in this case Councilmember Parks, serving on both the City's Transportation Committee and the Metro Board.

Metro Transit Security Updates

Media Relations today continued to receive media calls regarding updates in providing transit security on Metro Buses and Metro Rail trains. Both Media Relations staff and the LASD responded to media inquiries about Metro's efforts to enhance transit security in light of recent events in London.

Associated Press (AP) Public Transportation Feature

The Associated Press is expected to run a story about public transportation in Los Angeles and what new ideas and programs Mayor Villaraigosa envisions in the coming years. Metro staff provided the reporter with ridership stats on both bus and rail as well as an overview on the many projects Metro is currently involved in.

L.A. Transit Alternatives Story

The Associated Press is preparing a story to run Thursday highlighting transportation alternatives in Los Angeles as well as new transportation visions from Mayor Villaraigosa as he assumes the Chairmanship of the MTA. The LA Weekly also is preparing a story concerning the chairmanship of the MTA and how it is rotated among the Board members each year.

Taking the Metro Red Line

Sunset magazine is preparing a story on the use of Metro Rail in Los Angeles, specifically the Metro Red Line, where it goes and what stops connect travelers to Hollywood.

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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
1 Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012-2952
Phone: 213-922-2000
Fax: 213-922-7447
