



Metro

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In this issue:

- [Tom DeLay Steps Down from House Leadership Post](#)
- [Kick Off of Risk-Based, Threat & Vulnerability Assessment with DHS](#)
- [TSA's National Explosive Detection Canine Team Program is Being Expanded](#)
- [Metro To Receive Canines For Transit Security](#)
- [Go Metro To Avoid High Gasoline Prices](#)
- [Wilshire Blvd. Bus Lane](#)
- [Update on Contract Bus Services Labor Issue - Day 57](#)
- [Of Note](#)

Tom DeLay Steps Down from House Leadership Post

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-TX), who has become one of the most dominant political figures in recent years, was indicted today by a grand jury in Austin, TX on one count of conspiracy for alleged violation of Texas campaign finance laws.

Shortly after today's indictment, DeLay temporarily stepped down from his leadership position in the House of Representatives. The role of majority leader will be filled by Rep. Roy Blunt (R-MO), who currently serves as House Majority Whip, the number three position in the leadership hierarchy. Speaker Dennis Hastert indicated that Blunt will be assisted in his duties by two other members who hold leadership positions, Reps. David Dreier (R-Covina) and Eric Cantor (R-VA).

Kick Off of Risk-Based, Threat & Vulnerability Assessment with DHS

On Tuesday September 27, Metro met with the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office for Emergency Preparedness (OEP) for the purposes of kicking off the risk-based, threat & vulnerability assessment of our operation and key facilities. This meeting covered the process whereby the selected participants will actually be involved in the determination of what, within our operation, is most-at-risk and where certain vulnerabilities lie, as well as what the specific threat might be, in terms of the weapons that could be employed against them. The process, with our involvement, looks at what we currently have in

place in terms of protection, it's effectiveness, and what might be practical options for Metro to augment that deterrence or immediate-response effectiveness.

This process will help us to more formally prioritize our needs based upon actual "threat and risk " so that Metro can pursue and receive, additional grant funding. The next meetings will be the two 4-hour "Criticality Workshops" that are scheduled for Thursday, October 13th, and Friday, October 14th. Additional meetings and on site assessments will then be held throughout the remaining year and into the next

TSA's National Explosive Detection Canine Team Program is Being Expanded

As authorized by Congress in the Transit Security Administration's (TSA) 2005 Appropriation, TSA's National Explosive Detection Canine Team Program is being expanded to include 10 of the nation's largest passenger rail and mass transit rail systems. These 10 systems will join the nation's airports and Atlanta's MARTA transit system and will benefit from having TSA-certified canine teams "on-site".

New York MTA, New Jersey Transit and Chicago's METRA systems were offered an opportunity to participate in this program, but declined for a variety of reasons.

Attached are two public affairs documents summarizing the program.

Metro To Receive Canines For Transit Security

Copley News (Daily Breeze) inquired regarding the announcement made today by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that Metro has been selected as one of 10 mass transit and commuter rail systems to be included in the expansion of the National Explosive Detection Canine team Program. Law enforcement officers will attend the TSA Explosives Detection Canine Handler Course beginning in October. During the 10-week course, handlers will be matched with TSA canine and trained in proper dog handling and search techniques. Upon graduation, the teams will return to their systems for local training and certification. The story is expected to run tomorrow.

Wilshire Blvd. Bus Lane

The Los Angeles City Council today continued the discussion of the Wilshire Blvd. Bus Lane for two weeks. Some Councilmembers stated that unless there were definite commitments to extend the bus lane, the existing one-mile segment should be removed. Others supported extending the bus lane to other segments of Wilshire Blvd. Councilmember Bernard Parks reminded them that Metro's Planning and Programming Committee approved a motion two weeks ago, which is also on tomorrow's Board agenda, that calls for a scope of work, budget and

implementation schedule for the Wilshire Bus-Only Lane.

Go Metro To Avoid High Gasoline Prices

Reporters with the Anderson School of Journalism (USC) and Ch. 52 interviewed media relation staff today regarding the high cost of gasoline and increased ridership on the Metro System. Reporters were told that the best transportation bargain in town is a \$3 day pass that gets them unlimited rides on all Metro operated buses and trains. Stories are expected to air tonight.

Update on Contract Bus Services Labor Issue - Day 57

Transportation Concepts Inc. (TCI) had two outlates this morning due to mechanical issues. The necessary repairs were made and both buses left the yard five minutes after their scheduled pullout times. One of the buses was on Line 167 and the other was on Line 603. There were seven drivers and three teamster representatives on the picket lines today. There were no incidents between the TCI drivers and picketers.

Of Note

On this day in 1984, the Southern California Rapid Transit District acquired the northwest corner of Wilshire and La Brea for its Metro Rail subway project. It was purchased for Metro Rail's original alignment west on Wilshire to Fairfax. The building on the site was designed by famous L.A. Architect Welton Becket and opened in 1949 as Tilford's Restaurant and Lounge. Welton Becket is best known for designing the LAX Theme Restaurant, the Capitol Records Building, the Cinerama Dome, Parker Center and other notable landmark buildings. After the Metro Rail subway alignment was changed due to a methane gas incident near Third and Fairfax, the building was rehabilitated and opened in 1987 as a Metro Customer Service Center, which also houses Metro's lost and found department.

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