



Metro

Daily Brief

Tuesday, November 2, 2005
20051102-0

CEO Roger Snoble

In this issue:

- [Two Metro Orange Line Accidents](#)
- [Reps. Dreier and Thomas to Vie for Vacant House Chairmanship?](#)
- [Suspect Arrested for Five Vehicle Break-ins at Metro Green Line Lakewood Station Park and Ride](#)
- [Prospects For Subway Extension On Wilshire](#)
- [South Bay Metro Bus Line 439](#)
- [Local Muralists Honor Boyle Heights, East LA](#)

Two Metro Orange Line Accidents

At approximately 11:15 this morning a motorist apparently ran a red light after turning right from Topham Street on to Corbin Avenue and collided with the Orange Line Metro Liner. There was minor damage to the front bumper of the bus. A fare inspector on board the bus at the time of the accident claimed injury and was transported to Kaiser Hospital. The motorist of the car also claimed injury but requested to see her own doctor.

A second, more serious accident occurred this afternoon at approximately 2:05 p.m. at Woodman and Oxnard when an Orange Line Metro Liner collided with a car at the intersection. The busway was blocked as a result of the accident and buses were rerouted onto surface streets around the incident. The bus was eastbound on the busway and the car traveling southbound apparently ran a red light striking the bus in its mid-section. Approximately 13 people claimed injuries, one critical, and were transported to nearby hospitals.

We continue to instruct our operators on the importance of both defensive driving and taking precautionary measures when crossing key intersections.

Metro San Fernando Valley Service Sector General Manager Richard Hunt as well as Media Relations staff responded to the scene of both accidents. KABC-TV and the Daily News were at the scene of the first accident. Media Relations also received a call from the LA Times. We anticipate extensive media coverage on both accidents tonight and tomorrow.

Reps. Dreier and Thomas to Vie for Vacant House Chairmanship?

Two senior members of the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation -- Reps. David Dreier and Bill Thomas -- have been mentioned in news reports as possible contenders for the chairmanship of the House Financial Services Committee, which will become vacant in 2007. The current chairman, Rep. Michael Oxley (R-OH), announced he will not seek re-election next year, thereby setting up what is likely to be a spirited contest within the GOP Caucus to succeed him. Dreier, who chairs the House Rules Committee, and Thomas, chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, are both term-limited in 2007 and must step down from their chairmanships. Other candidates for the Financial Services chairmanship include Reps. Deborah Pryce (R-OH), Spencer Bacchus (R-AL), and Richard Baker (R-LA). Although the House Republican Steering Committee will not select a new chairman until January 2007, behind-the-scenes campaigning has already begun in earnest.

Suspect Arrested for Five Vehicle Break-ins at Metro Green Line Lakewood Station Park and Ride

Sheriff's deputies arrested a suspect yesterday for breaking into five vehicles at the Metro Green Line Lakewood Station Park and Ride lot. Transit Services Bureau deputy Dave Lopez observed that the suspect was driving suspiciously through the parking lot and a computer check revealed that the vehicle was a felony vehicle, wanted in connection to a burglary. The suspect fled when he saw the deputy but was apprehended in the Norwalk area. Evidence linking the suspect to many auto burglaries was found in the suspect's car. Metro Sheriff's deputies checked the Park and Ride lot and found that five vehicles had just been broken into.

Prospects For Subway Extension On Wilshire

The L.A. Weekly may publish an article Thursday about future prospects for a subway extension on Wilshire Boulevard to Fairfax now that an independent safety panel has determined in preliminary findings that it is safe to tunnel in that corridor. I informed the reporter that the first hurdle is lifting federal restrictions but then a bigger hurdle would be identifying new funds for such a project if the Board so chooses. I also mentioned that all local Prop. A and C monies for the next 20 to 25 years are committed for other projects.

South Bay Metro Bus Line 439

A Daily Breeze reporter inquired today, November 1, regarding the status of Metro Bus Line 439. The reporter heard from officials that the line was to be cancelled. Metro Media Relations told the reporter that the line was not up for cancellation, but will receive some minor reduction in service in both the early morning hours and late evening hours due to low ridership. The service changes will go into effect on December 19. Redondo Beach has proposed to begin Line 109 in June 2006, which would replace a portion of Line 439 at that time. The

story is expected to run tomorrow.

Local Muralists Honor Boyle Heights, East LA

Media Relations distributed a news release this afternoon announcing that Metro has commissioned three local artists to paint murals on large-scale construction fences at key intersections of the Eastside Extension of the Metro Gold Line project now under construction. The original artworks will bring a welcome burst of color and visual celebration honoring various aspects of the community, turning a functional and mundane neighborhood barrier into a neighborhood specific artwork. The artwork will be painted on wood walls over 20 feet in height by hundreds of feet in length and will be completed by the end of 2006.

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