



Metro

Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble

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In this issue:

- [House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Holds Hearing on Section 1909 Commission Report](#)
- [Metro Volunteers to Distribute Bus, Rail, and Safety/Security Information at the Martin Luther King Kingdom Day Parade](#)
- [Bus Operator and Street Sellers Arrested For Illegal Day-Pass Sales](#)
- [Sheriff Deputies Arrest Tagger "Ardo" for Graffiti Damage to Divisions 2, 7, and 18](#)
- [Media Inquiry into Metro Rail Gating Issue](#)

House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Holds Hearing on Section 1909 Commission Report

Today, the chairman and ranking member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee agreed that Congress should act immediately to improve America's transportation infrastructure. This bipartisan commitment was made as the committee reviewed a report issued this Tuesday by The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission (also known as the "1909 Commission"). The panel's chairman, James Oberstar remarked at the hearing that the commission's proposal to raise gasoline taxes by 40 cents a gallon over five years will not be debated for a while. Three of President Bush's appointees to the commission, including Transportation Secretary Mary Peters, declined to testify at the hearing held today. These individuals all opposed the commission's support for increasing the federal gas tax. Chairman Oberstar shared that he believes that Secretary Peters will testify before the committee at another time and that he would not have to issue a subpoena to secure her testimony on the commission's findings.

Metro Volunteers to Distribute Bus, Rail, and Safety/Security Information at the Martin Luther King Kingdom Day Parade

On Monday, January 21, 2008, staff will join thousands of Los Angeles residents to celebrate the Martin Luther King Kingdom Day Parade. Metro Volunteers will set up a transit information table in Leimert Park on Crenshaw Boulevard and pass out bus and rail information and transportation safety/security tips. While

promoting the agency and its services the volunteers will also provide information on the Crenshaw/Prairie Transit Corridor Study to families and parade participants.

Bus Operator and Street Sellers Arrested For Illegal Day-Pass Sales

In response to an anonymous tip, staff began investigating the possible embezzlement of day passes by Metro employees. The employees were alleged to be giving their supplies of day passes to “runners” who in turn would sell them on the street. One bus operator has been arrested and two others were placed on administrative leave with charges pending. Five non-employees were also arrested for conspiracy to commit grand theft and receiving stolen property. Further investigations are ongoing.

Sheriff Deputies Arrest Tagger “Ardo” for Graffiti Damage to Divisions 2, 7, and 18

Today, Sheriff Deputies served a search warrant for a residence located near the Hollywood community in the City of Los Angeles. The Search Warrant and Arrest Warrant were for a tagger known as “Ardo” or “Artoh” from various tagging crews: US (Urban Squad), AGH (Always Getting High), and UPN (Ur Property Next or Under Pigs Noses). A total of 36 reports of graffiti, with a cumulative damage of approximately \$63,000, were received from Bus Divisions: 2, 7, and 18.

Under Miranda, the suspect admitted to being Ardo and to the damages but stated that he would not help identify any members of his crews. Among the items seized were: several Metro Bus Passes; numerous markers; two school books, which were piece books (i.e., portfolios); and a photo album depicting his work. LA County Probation Officer Robby Robinson assisted in the operation since the suspect is currently on probation for robbery.

Media Inquiry into Metro Rail Gating Issue

Today, Media Relations received media calls from KFI Radio, La Opinion and City News Service regarding the Board Committee action taken on the Metro Rail Gating Issue. Several Television station earlier this morning also aired stories regarding the issue. Reporters were told that the item will now go to the full Board next week for their action. Stories are expected to run tonight and tomorrow.

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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
1 Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012-2952
Phone: 213-922-6888
Fax: 213-922-7447
