



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

**Tuesday, January 22, 2008**  
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**CEO Roger Snoble**

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## **House Transportation Committee Presses for Infrastructure Spending in Economic Stimulus Package**

With a short-term economic stimulus package high on the congressional and White House agenda, transportation leaders in Congress have mounted a behind the scenes effort to press for the inclusion of increased infrastructure investment in any stimulus package. In particular, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has proposed a \$15 billion package of highway, transit, water and rail investments that could be incorporated into what is expected to be a \$145 billion stimulus package. While the House leadership has not specifically ruled anything in or out, congressional sources have hinted that transportation advocates face an uphill battle in adding infrastructure spending to the package. Because the construction season is still four months away in many parts of the country, an infusion of money for public works projects is viewed as having a limited immediate impact on the national economy.

Congressional leaders intend to move quickly on a stimulus package, with late February being pegged as the goal for final enactment. On a related note, attached is a white paper recently released by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) that outlines options for addressing the economic downturn. The report identifies public works spending as one option but also calls attention to its limited effectiveness as a major short term boost to the economy. We will keep you informed as new developments arise.

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## **The Security Network's Regional Intermodal Transportation Security**

## **Conference**

Last week, I was a guest speaker at a regional intermodal transportation security conference organized by The Security Network, a non-profit organization comprised of civic, business and government leaders to promote rapid commercialization of security technologies and development of effective regional security. My presentation focused on protecting public transit from security risks, such as explosives, which are the number one threat based on incidents – Madrid (2004), Moscow (2004 and 2005), London (2005) and India (2006) – from around the globe.

Also speaking was The Honorable Jay Cohen, Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) who discussed DHS's role in promoting safe transportation. In addition, speakers from the Canada Port Authority, San Diego Airport, Port of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Mexico provided their views on this timely topic on national security.

Both Supervisor Knabe and I had the opportunity to meet with the Under Secretary, who expressed support and appreciation for our interest in seeking innovative approaches, such as using advanced technologies, to protect the public. The Under Secretary committed staff resources to work with us to explore opportunities, particularly in light of the Board's pending action to install gates on Metro Rail, to enable advance technology security enhancements. We will also be meeting with California's Office of Homeland Security in the near future to discuss potential additional funding for these improvements. I will keep you apprised of any further developments.

## **Media Inquiry into Metro Eastside Artifacts**

Today, the Los Angeles Times inquired about petition letters received from several elected officials and Cal State Los Angeles regarding artifacts and human remains found during construction of a retaining wall in the Los Angeles County Crematorium at the intersection of First and Lorena streets as part of the construction of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. The letters requested that we send the artifacts and human remains to Cal State LA for DNA analysis and for further study and conservancy purposes.

## **Media Inquiry into Proposal to Increase Qualifying Age for Senior Discounts**

Today, we responded to several media inquiries regarding the proposal to increase the qualifying age for the discounted Senior cash fares and passes from 62 to 65 years-old, which was presented last week at two Committee meetings. Staff explained that, based on the recommendations from the Budget

and Finance Committee and Executive Management and Audit Committee, the Board will make its decision on Thursday. Background information on subsidies provided and other transit agencies policies on Senior discounts was explained to reporters from The Los Angeles Times, Channel 22/52, 34, KFWB Radio and Hoy Newspaper. The media inquiries were prompted by a news conference held earlier today by the Bus Riders Union calling on the Board of Directors to reject staff's proposed fare policy. Stories are expected to run tonight and tomorrow.

### **Reserve the Dates**

Metro San Gabriel Valley Sector and Division 9 Grand Opening, Friday, January 25, 2008 at 11:00 a.m., San Gabriel Sector Offices, 3449 Santa Anita Avenue, El Monte, California

This event will commemorate the new building that will house the San Gabriel Valley Sector offices, Division 9 Transportation offices and Los Angeles Sheriff Deputy substation. The building is "ecologically green", constructed to achieve a silver rating by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). This new structure surpasses the State of California's already strict standards for building energy use by 25% and water consumption standards by 50%.

This is the first building built by Metro since the Metro headquarters building and the first new building for a new division in over 25 years.

Board Members who wish to attend can contact my office for more information so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

Annual Legislative Advocacy/Washington DC Trip, Sunday, January 27 through Tuesday, January 29, Washington DC.

This is the Board Chair and CEO's annual legislative advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. to share our FY 2008 legislative program with Los Angeles County's Congressional delegation and House and Senate Appropriations and Authorizing Committee members. Specifically, \$80 million for Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension (MGLEE) project, \$10 million for bus and bus facilities discretionary funding, funding for our "Very Small Starts" program and environmental sustainability measures recommended by the Ad-Hoc Sustainability Committee.

Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce 119th Inaugural Dinner, Thursday, January 31, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., Beverly Hilton Hotel, 9876 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, California

The Inaugural Dinner is recognized as the premier business and civic leadership event in Los Angeles, which celebrates the installation of 2008 Chair of the

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Board Tim McCallion, President-Pacific Region, Verizon. During the evening the Chamber will also present the Distinguished Business Leader Award and the prestigious Civic Medal of Honor.

Board Members who wish to attend can contact my office for more information so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

All Sectors Public Hearings on Proposed Service Modifications, February 9, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., Metro Board Room, 3rd Floor, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, California

This public meeting will gather public input on the proposed Metro Bus services modifications that, if approved, would be implemented in June 2008 or later. Proposed are the development of several new Metro Rapid Bus lines and cancellation of underutilized bus service. In general, the proposed service modifications are aimed at improving overall system performance through efficient use of limited resources. Additional information can be obtained from a recent [news release](#) announcing the public hearings.

In addition to this All Sectors Public Hearing, six other public hearings will be held within the sectors. The public is encouraged to attend the public hearings to offer their input on the proposed changes.

The following is a list of public hearings scheduled for February:

- **San Fernando Valley Sector:** February 6, 2008, 6:30 p.m., Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys
  - **South Bay Sector:** February 6, 2008, 6:00 p.m., Carson Community Center, 801 Carson St., Carson
  - **Metro Headquarters (All Sectors),** February 9, 2008, 10:00 a.m., Metro Board Room, 3rd Floor, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles
  - **San Gabriel Valley Sector:** February 11, 2008, 6:00 p.m., San Gabriel Valley Sector Office, 3449 Santa Anita Ave., 3rd Floor Council Chambers, El Monte
  - **Gateway Cities Sector:** February 12, 2008, 6:00 p.m., Girls Club House Recreation Center, 4940 Southern Ave. (So. Gate Park), South Gate
  - **Westside/Central Sector:** February 13, 2008, 5:00 p.m., La Cienega Tennis Center, 325 S. La Cienega Blvd., Beverly Hills
  - **Gateway Cities Sector:** February 14, 2008, 4:00 p.m., The Gas Company, 9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey
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Board Members who wish to attend can contact my office for more information so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

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