



Metro

Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble

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U.S. Senate Committee Hearing Examines Section 1909 Report

Earlier today, the U.S. Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing to examine a report to Congress recently issued by the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, commonly known as the Section 1909 Commission. The committee, which is led by Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and ranking member Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), heard from four members of the commission who urged the federal government to increase its investment in transportation. “In reviewing the commission's recommendations, it is clear to me that there is no easy answer to the challenges we face. But without action by the Federal government, our infrastructure will further deteriorate, congestion will increase, additional lives will be lost, and our economy will suffer,” commented Senator Boxer at the hearing. Senator Inhofe conveyed his opinion that the commission's recommendation to increase the federal gas tax “is not doable.”

California Transit Association Lawsuit

Today, the Sacramento Superior Court issued its decision in the lawsuit brought by the California Transit Association (CTA) challenging the Legislature's use of Public Transportation Account (PTA) funds to balance the State budget. The judge's decision is that the majority of the transfers are allowable but found that certain transfers of PTA funds for debt service payments are not authorized. Staff will be completing a more thorough analysis of the case. The CTA has issued the attached statement.

Sheriff Deputies Arrest Tagger “ARISE” for Vandalism Damage to Metro Divisions 8 and 15

Yesterday, Special Program Unit (SPU) Personnel assisted Sheriff's Deputies to serve a Search Warrant and Arrest Warrant at the residence of a tagger known as "Arise." He is responsible for nearly \$20,000 in damages to buses from Divisions 8 and 15. There have been 20 crime reports written on the damages done by "Arise" and another tagger by the name of "Ike." "Arise" is a "oner", not belonging to an organized tagging crew and "Ike" is his best friend.

During the interview, "Arise" made a statement acknowledging his tagger identity and the damages he had inflicted on our system. He had been told by his friend "Ike" that he should not have tagging related items in his house in the event of a raid by Transit Police, similar to what happened to "Ike"; he was arrested by Transit Services Bureau SPU Personnel on July 25, 2007 after a search of his residence in the San Fernando Valley.

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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
