



Metro

Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble

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Wyden-Thune-Dodd-Shelby Amendment to the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008

The U.S. Senate is expected to consider the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 early next week. Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR), John Thune (R-SD), Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and Richard Shelby (R-AL) may offer an amendment that provides \$5 billion to be spent on "ready-to-go" transportation projects, including \$1 billion for public transportation investment. The Wyden-Thune-Dodd-Shelby Amendment would provide \$1 billion in new federal transit funding as follows:

- \$700 million for "stimulus grants" via the Urbanized Area formula program for the purchase of buses and rolling stock;
- \$300 million in "stimulus grants" to expedite the construction of projects with existing Full Funding Grant Agreements (FFGA's) under the New Starts program; and
- All transportation funding under the amendment would need to be obligated within 120 days of enactment of the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008.

The amendment also includes provisions from the pending SAFETEA-LU corrections legislation that allows transit systems located in urbanized areas which transitioned from less than 200,000 in population to greater than 200,000 population in the 2000 Census to use up to 50 percent of their eligible operating funding in FY 2003 for similar expenses in FY 2008 and FY 2009.

Staff has contacted the offices of both Senators Feinstein and Boxer to express

our support for this amendment. Some Senators may resist the idea of adding additional amendments to the Senate's plan because it is more expensive than the House version. We will continue to keep you apprised of this amendment as this Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 is considered by the Senate.

Homeland Security Grant Announced for Greater Los Angeles Area

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has announced that the Greater Los Angeles Area will receive \$13.3 million in FY 2008 transit security grants. Besides us, the eligible agencies for this grant include the Catalina Passenger Service, Foothill Transit, Long Beach Transit, Metrolink, OCTA and the Santa Monica Big Blue Bus. This FY 2008 Homeland Security grant program is designed to provide funding to public agencies at the state and local level to enhance their abilities to prevent, prepare for and respond to incidents of terrorism and natural disasters.

Independent Citizens' Advisory and Oversight Committee Audit

Today, the Independent Citizens' Advisory and Oversight Committee (ICAOC) received an audit report saying that we were in compliance with the Proposition A and C ordinances for FY 2007 (ending June 30, 2007) and no reportable weaknesses in our system of internal control were found.

The ICAOC audit is required by the MTA Reform and Accountability Act of 1998. Pursuant to the Act, the ICAOC has scheduled a public hearing on April 14, 2008, to hear public testimony on the auditors' report.

Next Week's Procurement Postings

RFP for Enterprise Insurance Monitoring Program

A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released next week to procure an Enterprise Insurance Monitoring Program. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from February 6, 2008, to March 21, 2008.

We are seeking the services of an outside contractor who will be responsible for the receipt, review and repository of information from vendors, contractors, developers and other entities required to provide insurance documentation to us. The contractor will monitor insurance requirements for real estate agreements, development projects, capital projects and procurement activities on a daily basis.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Lily Lopez, Contract Administrator,

at (213) 922-4639, or Maria Lechuga, Senior Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-7206.

Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events

Next week, I will be meeting separately with Director Katz, City Councilmember Tom LaBonge and CTC Commissioner Dario Frommer, whom we will be briefing on our Long Range Transportation Plan and Transit Corridor Improvement Fund issues. I will also be participating in the Southern California Trade Corridor Improvement Fund Working Group Meeting and the General Managers Group Meeting.

I will be out of the office beginning Thursday, February 7, 2008 through Tuesday, February 12, 2008. I will be returning to the office on Wednesday, February 13, 2008. During my absence, Carol Inge, Chief Planning Officer, will act on my behalf with full signature authority. She can be reached at (213) 922-3056.

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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
