



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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CEO Roger Snoble

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## Bush Administration Unveils Proposed Budget

Today, the President's FY09 budget proposal was transmitted to Congress. There is generally good news for us, with three capital projects recommended for funding in the Administration's budget.

First, the budget requests \$74,600,000 in New Starts funds for the continued construction of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. It should be noted that this amount falls a bit short of the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA), which calls for \$80,000,000 in FY09. While it appears that many existing projects with FFGA's were reduced for FY09, our advocacy team has reached out to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) officials to find out the reasons for the apparent shortfall. Second, the Wilshire Boulevard Bus Only Lane Project was recommended at \$10,952,330 in Small Starts funds. The Wilshire Boulevard project was one of nine newly recommended Small Starts projects nationwide. Third, the Administration proposes \$332,620 for the Metro Rapid System Gap Closure Project. This is one of four existing Small Starts projects included in the budget.

On transit security, the Administration recommended \$175 million for the Department of Homeland Security's Transit Security Grant Program. This is significantly below the \$400 million appropriated by Congress in FY08. As such, congressional appropriators may be inclined to propose a higher funding level for FY09.

With regard to congestion pricing, the Administration proposes \$175 million from expired earmarks to fund its congestion reduction initiative, along with 75% of certain discretionary highway and transit program funds.

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Today's release of the President's budget marks the start of the annual appropriations season on Capitol Hill. In the coming weeks and months, individual appropriations subcommittees will begin holding hearings to examine specific aspects of the Administration's budget request. Following these hearings, House subcommittees will begin drafting and marking up individual spending bills this spring and summer. We will keep you informed of new developments throughout this year's appropriations process. Attached for your information is a budget summary for programs under the FTA.

### **FTA New Charter Service Listening Session**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be conducting a special outreach and listening session to present its new Charter Service regulations that become effective on April 28, 2008. The session will be conducted by the FTA's County Counsel staff.

The new regulations (Charter Service Final Rule Fact Sheet Attached) contain significant changes designed to provide flexibility, clarity and transparency to the provision of charter service. Participation in the listening session will help individuals better understand the new regulations, particularly a new requirement that considers transit service to any event on an irregular basis or for a limited duration where a premium fare is charged to be charter service. For example, fixed route service to events such as ballgames, county fairs, concert venues, that are open to the public, but are not part of regular service at the regular fare, would be considered charter service under the new regulations.

The session will take place on Friday, February 8, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the following location:

The Big Blue Bus Facility  
1660 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Santa Monica, Ca 90401

For more information about the session, please contact David Feinberg at 310-458-1975, ext. 5848, or for more information about the new regulations, please contact Ray Tellis at the FTA at 213-202-3956.

### **Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board Meeting Agenda**

On Thursday, February 7, 2008, the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority (Expo) Board is scheduled to meet at 2:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room (381B) in the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

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During the meeting, the Expo Board will consider the following actions:

- Approve Change Order No. 7.01 to Contract No. 1-06 for final design of the Trousdale Station to compensate FCI/Flour/Parsons (FFP), a joint venture, in an amount not-to-exceed \$850,000; and Authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute the subject Change Order on behalf of Expo;
- Approve Change Order No. 4.01 to Contract No. 1-06 for an amount not-to-exceed \$4,926,353, authorizing FFP, a joint venture, to construct the proposed National Boulevard Roadway Bridge (Ballona Creek Bridge); and Authorize the CEO to execute the subject Change Order and issue a Notice-to-Proceed for the construction of Contract Package C4, Ballona Creek Bridge;
- Approve Change Order No. 8.01 to Contract No. 1-06 for final design of the Metro Blue Line Tie-In Betterments in an amount not-to-exceed \$2.2 million to FFP, a joint venture; and Authorize the CEO to execute the subject Change Order on behalf of Expo.

In addition, the Board will consider options pertaining to the Farmdale Grade Crossing.

On the Consent Calendar the Board will approve the FY08 Phase 1 Mid-Year Budget Revision; Receive and file a report on preliminary cost estimates for Phase 2 of the Expo Light Rail Transit Project; and Receive and file a report on Expo Cost Containment Actions.

Under General Board Discussion item, staff will present its Monthly Project Status Update.

### **Service Sector Public Hearings**

A series of public hearings will begin Wednesday, February 6, 2008 on proposed service modifications planned to take place in June 2008. In a [news release](#) distributed last month, we announced that our service sectors will hold seven public hearings, including one on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at the Gateway building. The release lists the service changes being proposed as well as the implementation of six Metro Rapid Lines and encourages the public 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
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- **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

### **Government Finance Officers Association Budget Award**

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada has awarded us the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for our FY08 budget. The award represents a significant achievement by the entire agency. It reflects the commitment of the Board and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, we had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well the budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting. We have received the award each year for the past six years.

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