



Metro

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CEO Roger Snoble

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FTA Unveils New Starts Annual Report

Today, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released its Annual Report on New Starts. The much anticipated report includes ratings and profiles for capital projects with existing and pending Full Funding Grant Agreements (FFGA), including the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, along with those in final design and preliminary engineering. In addition, the report features a summary of newly recommended and existing Small Starts projects, including the Metro Rapid System Gap Closure Project and the Wilshire Boulevard Bus-Only Lane.

The Wilshire Bus-Only Lane Project drew interest from local media, including the Los Angeles Times, Daily News, LA City Beat and Radio Korea. The reporters inquired about the project which would receive \$10.9 million in FY 09 under the President's budget proposal if Congress approves it. Specifically, they asked if Beverly Hills would participate. Media Relations staff noted that Beverly Hills has been very supportive of Metro Rapid. They have installed the signal priority system. Also, the roadway through Beverly Hills is in good shape. Staff has talked to the City of Beverly Hills staff, but no formal agreement has been approved yet. There wasn't time to meet with the city prior to submitting the federal funding application last fall.

The Wilshire Bus-Only Lane Project is envisioned as a 12.5 mile project extending from Santa Monica to just west of downtown Los Angeles. The bus-only lane would be operational during rush hours and should improve bus speeds by about 25 percent. It's a \$31.5 million project. We expect \$23.3 million in federal funding under the Small Starts program spread over FY09-FY11. Construction should begin between October 2008 and October 2009, with an opening expected in early 2011.

The entire report can be accessed on the FTA's website at

<http://www.fta.dot.gov/>.

Increase Focus on Pedestrian Safety Awareness

Carolyn Flowers, Chief Operations Officer, has taken steps to heighten safety awareness at the divisions. She has stressed the importance that each of the divisions engages in action to increase awareness and sensitivity to the issue of pedestrian safety around buses. We have asked that they take immediate steps to go back to basics, reminding everyone of what they can do to improve awareness in operating safety around crosswalks and intersection, with emphasis on safety tips and compliance with standard operating procedures.

In addition, Operations, in coordination with Marketing, will develop a special safety campaign for buses and pedestrians with the goal to increase awareness for our customers. Community Relations will also begin adding bus pedestrian safety tips to their currently scheduled presentations in the schools, community groups, and senior centers.

Media Inquiry Regarding Bus Vs. Pedestrian Accident

This morning, Media Relations staff responded to the scene of a bus vs. pedestrian fatality at the corner of Arcadia Street and Los Angeles Street in downtown Los Angeles. The bus, operating out of Division 18, was traveling westbound on Arcadia Street turning south onto Los Angeles Street when the accident occurred. The female pedestrian was pronounced dead at the scene. Television reporters from Channels 62 and 54 covered the accident. Staff did a live interview with Channel 54. Numerous local television stations also covered the accident via their news helicopters. Stories are expected to air tonight.

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