



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

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**CEO Roger Snoble**

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## **U.S. Secretary of Transportation Testifies Before House Transportation Committee**

Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters appeared before the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee today to provide her perspective on a report recently issued by the National Surface Transportation Revenue Study Commission, popularly known as the 1909 Commission. The appearance before the committee was notable because Secretary Peters, while serving as chair of 1909 Commission, did not approve of the final report issued by the Congressionally mandated panel.

In the minority views printed as part of the 1909 Commission report, Secretary Peters argued that the document supported an “unnecessarily large federal role” for transportation projects and that it included a “massive federal fuel tax increase.” The Chairman of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, James Oberstar (D-MN), noted to the Secretary that “there is no free lunch in transportation infrastructure.”

During her testimony today Secretary Peters remarked that, “There are problems with the gas tax.” Further, she observed that the gas tax does not take into account demand or consumption during peak periods. The Secretary went on to note that “there is no clamoring for the gas tax.” Chairman Oberstar responded to the Secretary that the lack of support for the gas tax is a reflection of the leadership at the Department of Transportation and that the Secretary’s advocacy for public-private partnerships is “narrow, myopic and uninspired.”

## **Reaching Out to Encourage Pedestrian Safety**

In our continuous effort to reach out and encourage pedestrian-intersection safety, we are stepping up our work to communicate messages encouraging safe behavior by our employees, our patrons and the general public in response to the recent spike in accidents.

Our Safety Education unit has already supplemented its rail safety messages by also incorporating bus safety messages into its outreach programs to schools and community groups. Our Chief Operations Officer met this past Monday with all Division Transportation Managers who have spoken with their personnel to follow up on her commitment to speak with all bus personnel about this issue and will continue to do so. Along with this Friday's pay check, all agency personnel will receive a pay check stuffer (PDF attached) stressing extra caution around pedestrians.

Some time ago, Operations identified our accident "hot spot" intersections, almost all of which are in the City of Los Angeles. This information has been

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shared with the City of LA so that they can identify and implement safety improvements at those locations.

Our Communications staff has also included an intersection safety message in the monthly "Metro Briefs" (second PDF attached) that are published in newspapers around the County. Staff is also preparing a campaign to post pedestrian safety messages at bus stops throughout the County. Other efforts are under development. We will keep you informed as these initiatives move forward.

Please note that our accidents year-to-date had been running 10% below last year and we are below the target for this year.

### **Gateway Cities Public Hearing**

Gateway Cities held a public hearing on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in South Gate to receive input on proposed service changes scheduled for implementation in June 2008. During the meeting, staff provided an overview and discussion of the proposed changes. The hearing was attended by six people and all of them spoke. A representative of the Bus Riders Union encouraged the governance council to reject staff's proposed service changes stating that the consent decree required us to expand service and that taking hours from local lines to fund Rapid expansion is a violation of the consent decree. An additional public hearing is being held on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> in Downey.

### **Media Release Regarding Public Meeting on Regional Connector**

Media Relations distributed a [news release](#) today noting that we will be conducting two public meetings for our Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project on February 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

The release notes that the study analyzes various transit alternatives for the possible connection of the Metro Gold Line, Metro Blue Line and Expo Line through downtown Los Angeles, and considers various transit modes, alignments and station location options for an area that encompasses approximately two square miles of downtown LA, including the communities of Little Tokyo, the Arts District, the Historic Core, the Toy District, Bunker Hill, the Financial District, the Jewelry District and the Civic Center.

In November, we held two public scoping meetings to obtain community input on the scope of the alternatives to be studied in the Alternatives Analysis. Based on feedback from these meetings, we have identified some potential alignments and station locations for more detailed technical analysis.

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## **Media Release Regarding Detour Notice for 80th Annual Academy Awards Show**

Media Relations issued a [news release](#) today announcing that due to an increase in security measures being implemented for the 80th Annual Academy Awards show at the Kodak Theater at the Hollywood and Highland complex in Hollywood on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, Metro Red Line subway trains will not stop at the Hollywood/Highland station.

The release notes that Metro Red Line trains will operate on a regular schedule but will simply pass through the Hollywood/Highland Station without stopping on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, only. There will be no public access to the Hollywood/Highland Metro Red Line Station. With the start of regular service on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, all Metro Red Line trains will resume stops at the Hollywood/Highland Station in Hollywood.

The release also notes that due to street closures in the Hollywood Area, including the closure of Hollywood Boulevard, Metro Bus Lines 163, 210, 212, 217 and 780 will be detoured through February 25<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, Metro Bus Line 156 along Highland Avenue will be detoured. Service should resume by 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

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