



Metro

Daily Brief

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Crenshaw Prairie Transit Corridor Hearings

The last of four public meetings for the Crenshaw-Prairie Transit Corridor was held on Monday, February 25, 2008. The meetings were a follow-up to scoping meetings held in October 2007 and a chance for the community to provide input on the alternatives recommended for environmental clearance as well as more detailed technical analysis.

More than 140 people attended the four meetings. Feedback was generally supportive of the light rail transit, with less support for bus rapid transit options. Other comments included: support for a stronger/more direct connection to the LAX terminals, connections through the City of Inglewood, especially the Prairie Corridor and a focus on grade separations/subway sections. Staff will provide a more detailed update on the Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental document status to the Planning and Programming Committee on March 19th.

FTA New Starts Projects Quarterly Review Meeting

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts Projects Quarterly Review Meeting began with opening statements from Leslie Rogers, FTA Regional Administrator, Region IX. He thanked us for participating in the recent Rail Station Assessment and Risk Assessment update. He noted that the President signed the FY08 Transportation Budget, which includes a 2% reduction in all programs and funds are currently available for drawdown.

Staff provided information on our FY09 budget, which includes a service reduction due to the implementation of new Metro Rapid Lines. Staff also indicated that the gating of our rail stations is on hold pending Board approval;

fare revenues continue ahead of the budget, while operating costs are below budget; and rail ridership continues to rise.

In addition, staff provided an update on the 2550 Rail Vehicle Program. The project is two years behind schedule, but the Project Team is working through open action items daily with the rail car manufacturer, AnsaldoBreda to get the project on track. Apparently, vehicle weight and testing remain a concern and two vehicles are being prepared for Conditional Acceptance.

Staff also highlighted the status of our Construction Program, including the Eastside and Exposition Light Rail Transit (LRT) Projects and the I-405 High Occupancy Vehicle Lane Project with Caltrans. Staff also explained the Orange Line's pavement issues and contractor claims.

An update on Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension quarterly accomplishments was also provided, including the completion of over two million man-hours without incident. The project is 75% complete and construction is underway on eight light rail stations and design has begun on the Pomona/Atlantic Parking Structure.

Finally, staff provided updates on the Mid-City/Exposition LRT Phase 1 and Phase 2 Projects and the various transit corridors, including Crenshaw-Prairie, Westside Extension, Regional Connector and Eastside Transit Corridor Project. Staff also provided updates on Construction Safety and pending Legal Issues.

The next FTA New Start Projects Quarterly Review Meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 28, 2008.

Local Media Outlet Focuses on Transit Corridor Studies

Today, Chief Planning Officer Carol Inge was interviewed about the various transit corridor projects for a live KPCC (89.3 FM) broadcast on AirTalk with Larry Mantle. She noted that staff is working with the public to narrow down a list of options for consideration by the Board. She also took this opportunity to emphasize that these are great projects, but identifying new funding is an issue for most of them and we welcome public input not only about the projects, but also on how to address the funding challenge.

Media Release on New Interactive Video Wall

Today, Media Relations issued a [news release](#) announcing that our web site, www.metro.net has launched the first phase of its new Interactive Video Wall -- a collection of destination and news videos designed to help customers and visitors more easily navigate Los Angeles. It will begin with videos from the Go

Metro campaign, as well as news and feature pieces reporting on events and ongoing projects and safety videos from our active safety campaign.

The new Interactive Video Wall is also home to Board Chair Pam O'Connor's live chats, PBS star Huell Howser's Ten Great Reasons to Share the Ride and Howser's Tales from the Fast Lane interviews with our customers. The Interactive Video Wall also contains photographs and comments from riders in a new Transit Takes feature. In the future, it will include blogs, polls to collect customer opinion, streaming video of the agency's Metro Motion cable television show and tools to allow users to upload traffic photos and videos.

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