



Metro

Daily Brief

Thursday, March 6, 2008

CEO Roger Snoble

20080306-0

In this issue:

- [Reception for new CTC Commissioner Dario Frommer](#)
- [Recap of the San Fernando Valley Governance Council Meeting](#)
- [Recap of Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board Meeting](#)
- [Media Inquiry into High Gas Prices and Ridership](#)

Reception for new CTC Commissioner Dario Frommer

Last night, staff attended a reception for newly appointed California Transportation Commission (CTC) Commissioner Dario Frommer. The reception was hosted by the City of Glendale, Director and Mayor of the City of Glendale Ara Najarian, and CTC Commissioner Larry Zarian. Board Members Zev Yaroslavsky and Bernard Parks were also in attendance. Approximately 50 people attended the event representing various agencies and businesses in Los Angeles County. CTC Commissioners Zarian and Frommer vowed to work hard on our behalf to ensure that Southern California, and in particular, Los Angeles County transportation needs are represented, that we receive our fair share of transportation dollars and that existing transportation funds are protected from future state budget diversions. The next CTC meeting takes place in Sacramento on March 12-13, 2008.

Recap of the San Fernando Valley Governance Council Meeting

Last night, the San Fernando Valley Sector Governance Council held its meeting to discuss service changes planned for June 2008. Approximately 50 members of the public attended, with over half speaking, most voicing concerns over proposed cancellation of bus lines operating in the San Fernando Valley. The meeting lasted almost four hours and a summary of the Governance Council actions is listed below.

The Governance Council:

- Opposed staff recommendations to implement the two new rapid lines, the 724 and the 794 and the local service reductions on lines 394, 94 and 224 to fund the new rapid lines.
-

- Approved alternative service reductions in order to avoid total line cancellations for the 154, the 168 and 237.
- Approved the service reductions to the 156.
- Approved splitting the 163 and adding a new line 222 for no net cost.
- Opposed staff recommendation to reduce service on line 183 and approved alternative service reductions to fund the existing 183 service.

Significant is the rejection of the new rapid lines and reducing service on the local lines in the corridor to fund the new service. They talked extensively about the need for more service, not less. Several indicated that they wanted to "send a message" to the Board that continued service reductions were not acceptable. Two Council members (both elected City officials) repeated that they were obligated to stand up for "their" constituents.

The Governance Council was reminded that implementation of the new rapid lines was an obligation agreed to in the Court approved new service plan and had already been approved by the Board. Their objections were directed at the rapid bus alignments and the reductions in the local service.

All Governance Council members had received a copy of staff's response to Supervisor Burke's Motion earlier in the day. It was not an agenda item and there was little discussion about it, but several were upset at the service reductions outlined in the report. One member questioned the 215,000 hour trip thinning without public comment or input.

In addition, several television media outlets, including Channel 7 and Channel 11/13, attended the meeting. Stories on the council's actions aired late last night and this morning.

Recap of Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board Meeting

Today, the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority (Expo) Board held its regular meeting in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room (381B) in the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

During the meeting, the Expo Board took the following actions:

- Authorized the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute the remaining design review, coordination and construction inspection work required by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power – Water Services;
 - Authorized the CEO to issue a Notice-to-Proceed for Contract Package A5, Seismic Retrofit of Flower Street/Adams Boulevard overcrossings, including Caltrans retaining walls at the I-110 Freeway, to FCI/Fluor/Parsons, a Joint
-

Venture;

- Received and Filed the Monthly Report on CEO authorized contracts; and
- Received and Filed the Monthly Project Status Update.

The next scheduled meeting will be on April 3, 2008.

Media Inquiry into High Gas Prices and Ridership

La Opinion is preparing a story on high gasoline prices and inquired if we have noticed a jump in ridership in recent weeks. Staff explained that it is too early to tell, however, historically, increases on gas prices has always sent people looking for transit and commute options to save money on their daily transportation needs. Besides our bus and rail system, we also have other transportation options such as joining a carpool or vanpool program. A story is expected to run this weekend.

[Metro.net Home](#) | [Press Room](#) | [Projects & Programs](#) | [Meeting Agendas](#) | [Riding Metro](#) | [Metro Library](#)

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
1 Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012-2952
Phone: 213-922-6888
Fax: 213-922-7447
