



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

Monday, March 10, 2008

CEO Roger Snoble

20080310-0

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### Trade Corridor Improvement Fund Recommendations Released

Today, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff released their recommendations for allocating Trade Corridor Improvement Funds (TCIF). CTC staff recommended allocating \$1.650 billion of the total \$3 billion TCIF program to the Southern California Consensus Working Group's Tier 1 request. Los Angeles County's share of the funded Tier 1 program is \$ 998.6 million and includes funding for grade separations, ports' projects and rail relief sidings. The recommendation included funding ACE grade separation projects for all four counties involved in the program. None of the Tier 2 projects, which total \$497 million in TCIF requests, was recommended for funding. The CTC will hold a briefing on March 12 to further discuss this issue and is anticipated to take action on the list at its April 10th meeting. The CTC recommendations have been posted on the CTC website below.

[http://www.catc.ca.gov/programs/TCIF/TCIF\\_Staff\\_Recommendations\\_03102008.pdf](http://www.catc.ca.gov/programs/TCIF/TCIF_Staff_Recommendations_03102008.pdf)

### Topping Off Ceremony Held for the Wilshire/Western Development

Today, we joined Koar Development Group for a Topping-Off ceremony at the Wilshire/Western Metro Purple Line Station to celebrate completion of the final level of the 22-story, modern Asian-designed Solair building. Soaring above Koreatown and Wilshire Center, Solair is a key component of a major joint development project designed to bring truly urban, transit-oriented living to the Koreatown community. When complete at the end of 2008, Solair will comprise 40,000 square feet of prime retail spaces and 186 condominium units directly above the Metro Purple Line Station.

Media attending today's event included the Los Angeles Times, KABC 7, KTAN TV, KABL, KBSLA, Chinese Daily, Asia Pacific News, Korea Herald Business, Sports

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Seoul USA, Korea Daily and the Korea Times. Stories are expected to run tonight and tomorrow. Media Relations also issued a [news release](#).

## **High Gasoline Prices and Increasing Ridership**

CBS Nightly News is preparing a story on the high cost of gasoline. A film crew interviewed Metro Rail riders at Union Station today as part of the story scheduled to air tonight. Media Relations told the reporter that rail ridership has seen an increase compared to a year ago, however bus ridership remains flat. The reporter was reminded that we still have not received ridership data for March, which may show an increase that could be contributed to the high gasoline costs. KNX radio also interviewed Media Relations staff on our ridership increases as a result of gasoline prices.

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