



Metro

Daily Brief

Thursday, March 13, 2008

CEO Roger Snoble

20080313-0

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Oregon Congressman Launches National Infrastructure Movement

Today in Washington, Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) convened a meeting of representatives from the transportation, water and environmental communities to discuss the nation's infrastructure crisis and the challenges associated with its deteriorating condition and funding status. Blumenauer, who serves on the influential House Ways and Means Committee, has embarked on an effort to launch a national infrastructure "movement" aimed at building a sense of urgency, developing broad community support for greatly expanded infrastructure investment and crafting a new vision for infrastructure. We were represented at today's gathering.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also addressed the group and emphasized her strong support for making infrastructure investment a major priority during this session of Congress as well as next year, when SAFETEA-LU must be renewed. As noted in yesterday's Daily Brief, Speaker Pelosi has embraced a legislative proposal (S. 1926) that would establish a national infrastructure bank to help fund transit, highway and bridge projects, drinking water and wastewater systems and housing.

As part of his infrastructure campaign, Blumenauer proposes the creation of a mechanism designed to foster a national dialogue around infrastructure needs and engage local government officials, community leaders and others to develop a new vision and philosophy towards infrastructure. This will come in the form of legislation that will establish the U.S. Commission on Infrastructure Investment, which will be introduced next month. The commission's purpose is to 1) review and synthesize existing reports and materials and report to Congress; 2) convene a thorough set of public hearings on infrastructure in at least 50 congressional districts throughout the country; 3) articulate a new national vision

for infrastructure investments including specific recommendations; and 4) develop a set of model principles that will inform future infrastructure investments made by Congress.

Although prospects for passage this year are highly uncertain, we will keep you informed as this effort moves forward.

Access Washington D.C. Set for Next Month

Over 200 Southern California business, community, and elected officials will travel to the nation's capital next month to participate in Access Washington, DC. The southland delegation will provide a united front in discussing a variety of issues with members of the House, Senate and the Executive Branch. The advocacy campaign will include ten advocacy teams addressing a wide area of topics, from transit and goods movement matters, to healthcare and housing issues. Access Washington, D.C. will begin with a welcoming reception on Tuesday, April 15th and will conclude with a delegation dinner on the evening of Thursday, April 17th. Board members wishing to attend Access Washington, D.C. are encouraged to contact the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce at (213) 580-7568 or register online at www.lachamber.org.

Westside Sector Governance Council Meeting on Proposed Service Changes

Last night, the Westside Sector Governance Council meeting was held on the proposed service changes. Seven of the eight council members in attendance and a total of 12 members of the public (one from the BRU) attended of which five spoke on the proposed service changes. The following is a summary of the Governance Council actions:

- Approved the implementation of the rapid lines as well as the service reductions of the underlining service.
 - Approved staff's revised recommendation of the night owl elimination on lines 10, 37, and 38.
 - Rejected staff's revised recommendation of the night owl elimination on line 14 with a 3 to 4 vote.
 - The Governance Council member from Culver City Transit made an announcement that they are considering running a modified Line 220 service (which staff proposed for elimination). This could start in January if the Culver City Council approves the proposed budget. With this new information the Governance Council approved a motion from Governance Council Member Peter Capone-Newton to postpone the decision of eliminating the Line 220 until the Culver City Transit budget is adopted.
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GLAAACC's 15th Annual Economic Awards Dinner

On Thursday, March 20, 2008, the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce (GLAAACC) will be holding their 15th Annual Economic Awards Dinner at the Sheraton in Downtown Los Angeles, 711 South Hope Street. The General/VIP reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m., and a post reception will immediately follow the dinner. Black Tie Optional.

At the dinner, Linda Wright, our DEO for Diversity and Economic Opportunity, will be receiving the Community Service Award and we have been nominated for the Government Agency of the Year Award.

Event details:

What: GLAAACC 15th Annual Economic Awards Dinner
When: Thursday, March 20, 2008 – 5:30 p.m. Reception; 7:00 p.m. Dinner;
Post Reception
Where: Sheraton, Downtown Los Angeles
711 South Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA

Board Members who wish to attend, please contact my office so we can make the necessary arrangements.

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