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**Media Inquiries on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Decision on the Sales Tax Measure**

In light of the action taken today by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, we received numerous calls from the news media for our reaction to the Board of Supervisors' action on our request to consolidate the Metro's Special Election with the Statewide General Election on November 4, 2008.

Reporters were told that as a result of action taken by the Metro Board of Directors at their July 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, I was given authorization to seek legal action in the event the Board of Supervisors voted against placing the measure on the general ballot. The reporters were informed that I have initiated legal action today and will move swiftly in seeking outside legal counsel to accomplish this goal. Reporters from the LA Times, Daily News, City News Service, Associated Press, the Pasadena Star News, Korean Daily News, KFWB and KFI radio are expected to run stories on this issue.

**AB 2321 (Feuer) Metro Sales Tax Authority**

Yesterday, the Senate Appropriations Committee placed AB 2321 on suspense. The measure will be voted on this Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup> when the committee considers all of the bills placed on suspense.

## **State Budget Update**

As noted in press reports, Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed a sales tax increase as a way to balance the State Budget. With the Legislature back in session, a number of rumors have begun to circulate about budget negotiations. One of those rumors is that the Legislature is considering using funds from the State Transit Assistance (STA) Account to balance the budget. The Budget Conference Committee approved a transit allocation of \$566 million which included some Public Transportation Account Spillover funds. Removal of the Spillover funds would reduce the STA to approximately \$309. Additional information regarding our impact will be provided in future Daily Briefs as it becomes available.

## **LA City Council Approves Congestion Pricing Resolution on I-110**

Today, the Los Angeles City Council approved a resolution by Councilmember Wendy Greuel and Bernard Parks, as amended, supporting efforts to replace the I-210 with the I-110 as a congestion pricing demonstration project. The Council voted 13 to 1 with Councilmember Tom LaBonge voting against the resolution. The amendment, introduced by Councilmember Jan Perry, requested that we hold a public hearing on the project for residents of the I-110 community after we complete the community workshops.

## **Bus Service Impacts Due to Downtown Street Closures**

The funeral for LA Sheriff's Deputy Juan Escalante who was killed in the line of duty is scheduled for August 8, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels located at 555 W. Temple Street in Downtown. Approximately 5,000 people are expected to attend the funeral which is anticipated to result in street closures in the area.

LA Police Department Traffic Coordination Section motorcycle units and LA Department of Transportation will assist with the street closures in the vicinity of the Cathedral. Based on our past experience, there will probably be street closures on Temple Street between Grand Avenue and Los Angeles Street, and Hill Street between Temple Street and Alpine Street or College Street. Metro Bus lines affected will be the 2, 4, 10, 48, 81, 90, 91, 92, 94, 394 and 445.

## **Media Inquiry into the San Fernando Valley I-405 Corridor Connection Project**

Yesterday, the Daily News inquired about a project included in the half-cent sales tax measure recently approved by the Board. The sales tax would allocate \$1 billion for a high-speed transit project along the I-405 Freeway through the Sepulveda Pass.

Funding for the project would become available in the 2030-32 timeframe with completion of the project in 2038-39, if the measure is approved by the voters.

The reporter was informed that the project has not been defined and that staff would work with the community during the Alternatives Analysis and environmental phases of the project's development. In addition, the reporter received a status on various joint development projects that are planned in the San Fernando Valley. Stories may run later this week.

## **Media Broadcast on National Night Out**

Earlier this morning, Media Relations staff participated in a live broadcast to promote National Night Out. For the second year, we, along with the Transit Bureau Service of the LA County Sheriff Department are participating in promoting safety while using the Metro Bus and Rail system. Staff indicated that we have cameras on board buses and in rail stations, which help to reduce crime. In addition, we have emergency phones for customers to report any suspicious activity. Metro volunteers will be out tonight providing information and brochures on how to be safe on the Metro system. The story aired this morning and will be repeated again tonight.

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