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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



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05-2256-S1

November 8, 2006

Office of the Mayor
Chief Legislative Analyst
City Administrative Officer
Board of Transportation Commissioners
Department of Transportation
Los Angeles Police Department

Los Angeles County Metropolitan
Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Art Henry

RE: NOTING AND FILING THE JUNE 2, 2006 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REPORT
RELATIVE TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A "VIRTUAL RAILROAD
CROSSING WARNING SYSTEM" FOR THE METRO ORANGE LINE BUSWAY
INTERSECTIONS

At the meeting of the Council held November 7, 2006, the following action
was taken:

Attached report adopted X
Attached motion () adopted.....
Attached resolution adopted.....
Ordinance adopted.....
FORTHWITH.....
Motion adopted to approve communication recommendation(s).....

Frank T. Martinez

City Clerk
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**TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

Your

TRANSPORTATION

Committee

reports as follows:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Public Comments:	<u>XX</u>	<u> </u>

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the development and implementation of a "Virtual Railroad Crossing Warning System" for the Metro Orange Line busway intersections.

Recommendation for Council action:

NOTE and FILE the June 2, 2006 Department of Transportation (DOT) report relative to the development and implementation of a "Virtual Railroad Crossing Warning System" for the Metro Orange Line busway intersections, inasmuch as this report is for information only and no Council action is required.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Not applicable

(Public Safety Committee waived consideration of this matter.)

SUMMARY

At a special meeting on November 9, 2005, your Committee considered a Motion (Greuel - Weiss - Padilla et al.) relative to requesting the DOT, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), and Sheriff's Department to report on preliminary findings from the three Metro Orange Line traffic accidents with recommendations regarding the development and implementation of a "Virtual Railroad Crossing Warning System" for the Metro Orange Line busway intersections including, but not limited to, the safety measures as detailed in said Motion. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to continue this matter pending the DOT and Metro reporting back to the Committee in response to the Motion.

At its June 14, 2006 regular meeting, the Committee considered a June 2, 2006 DOT report in response to the above Motion relative to the development and implementation of a "Virtual Railroad Crossing Warning System" for the Metro Orange Line busway intersections. According to the DOT, in December 2005, the DOT agreed to review and approve photo enforcement installation plans designed by an MTA consultant, issue a change order to an existing DOT contract for installation and oversee the construction of the system. The MTA agreed to maintain and operate the system, including processing of all citations, and to reimburse the DOT for all expenses incurred for work on this project. As of June 2, 2006, there are a total of six signed signal plans with an additional six intersections currently in the design/review stage. Construction of all 12 photo enforcement intersections is expected to be completed by August 2006 (a complete listing of the relevant intersections is detailed in the June 2, 2006 DOT report and attached to the Council file). After further consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to note and file the June 2, 2006 DOT inasmuch as this report is for information only and

no Council action is required.

At its September 13, 2006 regular meeting, the Committee considered an oral report provided by the DOT relative to the development and implementation of a "Virtual Railroad Crossing Warning System" for the Metro Orange Line busway intersections. According to the MTA, the Orange Line ridership has dipped below 20,000 for the first time in several months but it is anticipated that this will increase due to schools being back in session. In respect to accidents, as of September 13, 2006, there have been 19 accidents on the Metro Orange Line right-of-way since the initiation of service, making for an accident rate of 1.7 per 100,000, which is below the rate for normal bus service which is 3.8 per 100,000.

The MTA then stated that the number of near-misses has also declined and this is attributed to the installation of photo red light enforcement cameras. Finally, the MTA stated that cameras have been installed at nine intersections and it is anticipated the remaining three intersections will be completed by the end of September, 2006 and that citations will start being issued by the end of October, 2006. Finally, the MTA then went on to state that all other safety measures that were recommended by the DOT and MTA have been installed and are currently in operation.

The DOT then stated that it has installed a large number of "Bus Coming" signs at the various intersections that the Metro Orange Line crosses and it believes that this has been effective in alerting motorists. In respect to the red light cameras, the DOT indicated that it has installed two cameras at each intersection, making for a total of 18 cameras. Next, the LAPD then stated that there has been positive teamwork between the MTA, DOT and LAPD in enhancing traffic safety at the Metro Orange Line crossings and all parties meet on a monthly basis to discuss outstanding safety issues and how to resolve them.

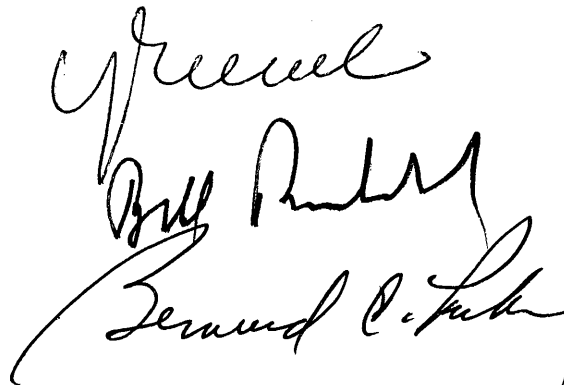
After further consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee made no recommendation, inasmuch as the oral reports of the DOT, MTA, and LAPD are for information only and no Council action is required. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MEMBER	VOTE
GREUEL:	YES
PARKS:	YES
LABONGE:	ABSENT
WESSON:	ABSENT
ROSENDAHL:	YES

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10/25/06
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Report
ADOPTED

NOV 07 2006

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL