



JOSE HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER, 14TH DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: George I. Gonzalez (213) 200-9974

COUNCILMEMBER HUIZAR FIGHTS TO KEEPS VITAL EAST SIDE BUS LINE IN OPERATION

Hundreds of Students and Senior Citizens will Continue to Have Access to Important Facilities

LOS ANGELES (March 17, 2008) – Councilmember José Huizar, was successful in fighting the initial recommendation of the Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) to eliminate Metro Bus Line 256. This vital bus line is the only bus line which runs through the Northeast Los Angeles communities of El Sereno, Monterrey Hills and Hermon. Line 256 links these communities to important public facilities such as hospitals, high schools, senior centers, other parts of Los Angeles, as well as areas of Pasadena, Altadena, and the City of Commerce. It is utilized by approximately 2,000 riders everyday.

“This is the only bus line that provides residents access to two large senior living facilities, to Cal State L.A., to Pasadena City College, to Wilson High School, to Huntington Memorial Hospital, and to a number of other key public facilities.” said Councilmember José Huizar. “The proposal to completely eliminate the one and only bus line that serves an already underserved community was not acceptable to me, or the communities I serve.”

Convincing Metro to keep this vital bus line operational was an important victory for hundreds of students and senior citizens in a needy area. Metro was recommending to shut-down Line 256 even after having held several community meetings in the month of February where residents expressed their concerns. Metro believed that the number of riders of Line 256 did not justify the cost of operation.

“This is a very difficult time for every public agency and difficult decisions are being made all around us. I understand those pressures. But Line 256 needed to be looked at in a larger context than just in terms of numbers,” Huizar said. “These communities don’t have the option to simply walk several blocks and catch a different line if this one is taken away – this is the only line in this isolated area. Eliminating this line would have eliminated a lifeline for this community.”

Councilmember Huizar worked closely with Metro’s San Gabriel Valley Service Sector Governance Council to reach a compromise that will keep the line regularly operational Monday through Friday. The agreement was negotiated during the Governance Council’s meeting this afternoon.

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City Hall Office • 200 N. Spring Street, Room 465 • Los Angeles, CA 90012 • Phone (213) 473-7014 • Fax (213) 847-0680

Boyle Heights Office • 2130 E. First Street, Suite 202 • Los Angeles, CA 90033 • Phone (323) 526-3059 • Fax (323) 526-3066

Eagle Rock/Highland Park Office • 2035 Colorado Boulevard • Los Angeles, CA 90041 • Phone (323) 254-5295 • Fax (213) 485-8788

El Sereno Office • 4927 E. Huntington Drive North, Suite 100 • Los Angeles, CA 90032 • Phone (323) 226-1646 • Fax (323) 226-1644

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