

## 2003 Press Releases

### News Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 1, 2003

#### **“TEA-21 Reauthorization: In Time of Crisis Why Business Should Care”**

*Senior V. P. Wally Baker, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) says without adequate funding, thousands of jobs are at stake in California and around the country.*

What: LAEDC & U.S. Chamber Business Strategy

When: FRIDAY, August 1, 2003 – 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. (PST)

Who:

Dick Castner, Exec. Dir., Western Region Office,  
Ed Mortimer, Dir. Congressional and Public Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Joel Szabat, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Transportation  
Roger Snoble, CEO, MTA  
Joe Miniace, Pres. & CEO, Pacific Maritime Association  
Pete Rickershauser, V.P. Network Dev. BNSF Railway  
Gerry Seelman, VP, DMJM+Harris, Inc.  
Wally Baker, Senior V.P., LAEDC

Where: The Los Angeles Athletic Club, 431 W. Seventh Street Los Angeles, CA 90014

(Suggested visuals) MTA Buses, Redline downtown & Hollywood, BNSF and METROLINK trains.

Background:

This year Congress will reauthorize the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21), which sets broad federal priorities and spending levels for surface transportation for the next six years. A heated debate is guaranteed, featuring traditional friends of the business community on both sides. Business has a huge stake in how this debate plays out. Our road and rail systems are vital to our economic health and nearly every company's operations. For example: International trade, one of the fastest growing parts of our economy, isn't just about getting goods into and out of the U.S. – it's about getting products from producers to ports and from ports to markets. “Business can't afford to sit back and hope that all goes well in Washington on this matter and now is the time to act,” said CEO & President Lee Harrington, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, a co-host. The select group of business and media leaders participating will explore the issues of Transportation and Budget crisis and impact on California.

The LAEDC is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to attract, retain and expand business and jobs in the region. It provides economic and industry forecasts as well as strategic consulting in trade, infrastructure, logistic and land use. The LAEDC Business Assistance Program works one-on-one with businesses throughout the county. Visit [www.laedc.org](http://www.laedc.org) .

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