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**LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ADVISES:
City of Los Angeles Announces Record Crackdown on Bandit Taxicabs**

LOS ANGELES (Aug 7, 2007)—The City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) and the City Council of Los Angeles Transportation Committee, advise a press event is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY, August 8th at 1:00 P.M.** at the taxi stand on SW corner of First and Los Angeles Streets.

The press event will announce a record number of bandit taxicab arrests and impoundments during the period of January through June 2007. There have been a total of 537 arrests, 246 thirty-day impoundment seizures and 578 traffic citations issued through June 2007.

“Bandit taxis are both illegal and hurting the quality of life for Angelinos and tourists,” said Councilwoman Wendy Greuel, Chair of the City’s Transportation Committee. “We are sending a clear signal that we aren’t going to stand for it.”

“During the past six months, the Bandit Taxi Enforcement Program has been a great success. The results speak for themselves and demonstrate the major positive impact that our efforts have made here in our city,” stated Councilwoman Jan Perry, Council District 9.

“People are in real danger riding in bandit taxicabs. They are unsafe, unlicensed and under or uninsured vehicles, and bandit taxicab drivers will face arrest and prosecution when operating in the City of Los Angeles: Beware,” added Gloria J. Jeff, LADOT General Manager.

Joining Councilwomen Greuel and Perry, and Ms. Jeff will be LAPD Commissioner Alan Skobin and LADOT Taxicab Commission President Joe Czyzyk.

This enforcement program was approved by the City Council and the Mayor in 2006. It is independently funded through a nominal surcharge of 20 cents per taxicab trip. In turn, taxicab operators pay a “bandit assessment” of \$30.00 a month (\$1.00 a day) which totals \$810,000 on an annual basis. The funds are used to pay overtime costs devoted to bandit enforcement jointly performed by LAPD and LADOT.

LADOT is dedicated to moving Los Angeles forward as quickly and safely as possible. Drivers, bus riders, bicyclists and pedestrians are encouraged to visit LADOT’s web site at: <http://www.lacity.org/LADOT/index.htm> for information about DASH, Commuter Express, bicycling in the city and an array of transportation services.