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| **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**  **20090915-1**  In this issue: |
| **LA City Council Ad Hoc River Committee Discusses High Speed Rail Alignment and Union Station Options**  Yesterday, the Los Angeles City Council Ad Hoc River Committee heard a California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) presentation on high speed rail routes through the City of Los Angeles. The committee also heard a City Planning report which recommended that CHSRA continue studying both the Union Station aerial station option and a second station alternative which is the Union Station East/Vignes option located east of Patsaouras Transit Plaza. The city planning report says this option may require the acquisition of parts of the city-owned Piper Technical Facility and the Metro-owned Regional Rebuild Center.  The committee directed that city planning staff work with other city departments, LA County and us to explore the possibility of a Union Station East/Vignes option and requested a report back at the next committee meeting scheduled for Monday October 19, 2009. We have scheduled the first meeting on this topic to take place here at Metro on September 22, 2009.  **I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project Update**  As part of the pre-construction activities the contractor is conducting geophysical soil testing, surface surveying and potholing of underground utilities in the streets and on the freeway. During this work all local access is maintained to businesses and residences. Pedestrians are rerouted to a safe area outside the work activity area.  Metro is the contractual lead but working closely with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) on this design/build project to add a 10-mile northbound HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle or carpool) lane on the San Diego Freeway (I-405) from the Santa Monica Freeway (I-10) to the Ventura Freeway (U.S. 101). The project includes realigning existing on-and off-ramps; removing, replacing and constructing new bridge and ramps; building 18 miles of retaining and sound walls; and performing road improvements on adjacent city streets.  This project is a recipient of Federal ARRA stimulus funds and will contribute to creating a significant number of jobs within the region. When completed, it will improve travel time through this heavily congested corridor, enhance safety, reduce air pollution and promote ridesharing. |
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