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| **Monday, September 21, 2009**  **20090921-1**  In this issue:   * **Metro Secures $4.5 Million Grant from Federal Government** * **Mobility 21 Transportation Summit** * **Colorado Terrorism Investigation** |
| **Metro Secures $4.5 Million Grant from Federal Government**  Today, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced $100 million in American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) grants for 43 transit agencies nationwide that are pursuing cutting-edge environmental technologies to help reduce global warming, lessen America's dependence on oil and create green jobs. According to the USDOT, the 43 winning proposals were submitted by transit agencies from across the country as part of a nationwide competition for $100 million in ARRA funds. Selection criteria included a project's ability to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and also to provide a return on the investment. Other criteria included readiness to implement, applicant capacity, degree of innovation and national applicability. The Federal Transit Administration reviewed more than $2 billion in applications for these funds.  I am pleased to report that our agency was selected to receive a grant in the amount of $4.5 million to install, on our Red Line, a wayside energy storage substation (WESS) at the Westlake/MacArthur Park station. The WESS flywheel technology captures regenerative braking energy when trains slow or stop and transfers back energy to the same train or another train when it starts or accelerates, reducing energy demand and peak power requirements. I am pleased that our Construction Division Systems Engineering, Environmental Compliance and Services, Planning and Government Relations staff worked diligently on this innovative proposal and that the federal government has recognized our effort by awarding this $4.5 million grant.  **Mobility 21 Transportation Summit**  Today, Regional transportation leaders convened to highlight Mobility 21’s “IMBY” – “In My Back Yard” – List of critical transportation projects to improve mobility throughout Southern California. A press conference was held as part of the Mobility 21 Transportation Summit where Mayor Villaraigosa, California Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Dale Bonner and I, as well as other transportation leaders gathered to announce the list of critical projects that are needed for the region.  Media attending today’s event included Ch. 4, 5, 7, 11, 13, 22, 35, 52, KPCC, KNX/KFWB, Metro networks, the LA Times, Daily News, La Opinion, Riverside Press Enterprise, Pasadena Star News, Orange County Register, China Press, Sing Tao Newspapers, Chinese Daily News, the Downtown News and the Associated Press. Stories are expected to run later today and tomorrow on the Mobility 21 summit.  To view the Mobility 21 Press release, click here.  <http://www.mobility21coalition.com/pressmedia/m21_36.html>  **Colorado Terrorism Investigation**  The Daily News contacted the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department regarding the recent arrests made in the Colorado terrorism investigation reportedly involving threats to a major transportation center in New York. L.A. County Sheriff’s Department staff reported that it is aware of the arrests made in Colorado, and that there are currently no specific threats to the transportation system in Los Angeles County. The Sheriff’s Department currently operates an anti-terrorism team that is deployed on our system on a daily basis. The story is expected to run tomorrow. |
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