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| **Tuesday, September 22, 2009**  **20090922-1**  In this issue:   * **LA City Council Approves Preparing EIR/EA for the Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit Project** * **California High Speed Rail Project** * Regional Integration of Intelligent Transportation System (RIITS) Strategic Plan |
| **LA City Council Approves Preparing EIR/EA for the Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit Project**  Today, the Los Angeles City Council approved the Transportation Committee's report directing the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to work with us on the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA). The purpose of this document is to environmentally clear the Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit Project and to approve payment of $210,000 to us as the City's share of the costs. The Draft EIR/EA is scheduled for release in February 2010, with final approval to come before the Board in May 2010 and the LA City Council and LA County Board of Supervisors in June 2010.  **California High Speed Rail Project**  Today, the Pasadena Star News inquired about the California High Speed Rail project as part of a forthcoming federal stimulus funding story. Our High Speed Rail Project Executive Officer, Alex Clifford reported that one of his primary functions as the agency’s project lead will be to ensure that the interests of cities are met and community impacts are addressed and mitigated as much as possible. We seek to ensure that the project still has the ability to scale down the proposals in the Alternatives Analysis by, among others, evaluating shared use track concepts among Metrolink, Amtrak and high speed trains in an effort to reduce community impacts. The story is expected to run tomorrow.  Regional Integration of Intelligent Transportation System (RIITS) Strategic Plan  The Gateway Cities Area Planning Team has been managing the RIITS Program over the past five years as a demonstration project. As a result of the increasing need to use and exchange near real-time multi-modal data between public and private agencies, staff has embarked in the development of a RIITS Strategic Plan. The Plan will address current and future opportunities and initiatives to accommodate demand and growth of the RIITS program network.  On September 17, 2009 staff, along with the IBI consultant team, held a stakeholder workshop which summarized the needs and strategic opportunities that emerged from the two-month outreach process. Representatives from 20 public and private entities took part in a discussion that centered on the three main candidate initiatives: Data Management, Operations Support and Integration of Regional Networks. The RIITS stakeholders representing public agencies in the areas of goods movement, arterial, highway, emergency management, transit, and MTA ITS and MTA Operations Planning gave invaluable input as to what they would like to have incorporated in RIITS.  Suggested key enhancements were aimed at archiving data for planning and performance measurement applications including the desire for travel forecasting; additional program outreach to other public agencies, and working with the trucking/goods movement industry with enhanced technology to transmit real-time traffic data. It was also conveyed that video sharing would be a valuable asset to bring greater awareness of real-time transport network conditions, especially for emergence management agencies to manage daily operations.  These and other program initiatives will be addressed in the Draft Strategic Plan which will be distributed for final comment in late October. |
| **Expo Construction - UPDATE**  Please be advised that the temporary closures outlined below have been postponed until further notice:  **What:** Temporary Street Closures for Track Crossing Installation  **Where:**  Crenshaw Blvd., 11th Ave./Degnan Blvd. and 7th Ave. will be closed at the intersection with Exposition Blvd.  **When:**  **Crenshaw Blvd.**  Friday, September 25, 2009 through Monday, September 28, 2009  Weekend work hours: Friday at 9:00 p.m. through Monday at 6:00 a.m.  **11th Ave/Degnan Blvd**  Friday, October 2, 2009 through Monday, October 5, 2009  Weekend work hours: Friday at 9:00 p.m. through Monday at 6:00 a.m.  **7th Ave.**  Friday, October 9, 2009 through Monday, October 12, 2009  Weekend work hours: Friday at 9:00 p.m. through Monday at 6:00 a.m.  **Traffic Impacts:**   * **NO** northbound or southbound vehicular traffic will be allowed to cross Exposition Blvd. by using Crenshaw Blvd., 11th Ave./Degnan Blvd. or 7th Ave. during this construction activity. * Northbound traffic on Crenshaw Blvd., 11th Ave./Degnan Blvd. and 7th Ave. will be detoured onto eastbound Rodeo Rd. Southbound traffic on Crenshaw Blvd. will be detoured onto westbound Jefferson Blvd. Southbound traffic on 11th Ave./Degnan Blvd. and 7th Ave. will be detoured onto westbound Exposition Blvd. * Exposition Blvd. will remain open to eastbound and westbound traffic. However, right and/or left turns will be restricted at these intersections. * Flagmen and directional signage will be used to safely direct drivers around the construction zones in order to minimize the disruption to traffic.   **Advisories**: Parking restrictions in all construction areas will be strictly enforced at all times. Please do not enter the construction work zone and obey all posted construction signs.  [Metro.net Home](http://www.metro.net/) | [Press Room](http://www.metro.net/news_info/default.htm) | [Projects & Programs](http://www.metro.net/projects_plans/default.htm) | [Meeting Agendas](http://www.metro.net/board/mtgsched.htm) | [Riding Metro](http://www.metro.net/riding_metro/default.htm) | [Metro Library](http://www.metro.net/library)  Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  1 Gateway Plaza  Los Angeles, California 90012-2952  Phone: 213-922-6888  Fax: 213-922-7447 |
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