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| **Thursday, September 24, 2009**  **20090924-1**  In this issue:   * **CHSRA to Apply for ARRA Track 2 High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program** * **Media Attending Today’s Board Meeting** |
| **CHSRA to Apply for ARRA Track 2 High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program**  During a Special Board meeting yesterday at the State Capitol in Sacramento, the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) approved the staff recommendation to submit an application for $4.5 billion in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Track 2 High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) Program. Included in this application is $2 billion for the Los Angeles – Anaheim segment. The total estimated cost of the projects in California submitted under this application is $9 billion. If awarded, the $4.5 billion will be matched with Prop 1A and other non-Prop 1A resources.  There was much discussion from Board Member David Crane about the need for local and other matching resources and he reminded the Board that Prop 1A gives priority to those corridors that are expected to require the least amount of bond funds. The $2 billion for the LA – Anaheim corridor will build-out the corridor to about 85%, leaving the remainder to be completed in Phase 2 of the corridor.  Phase 2 includes core systems, electrification, rail cars and a maintenance and storage yard.  The Governor will now review the CHSRA Track 2 applications and the Caltrans Surfliner Track 2 applications and determine which projects will be submitted to the Federal Rail Administration (FRA). The initial indication is that the FRA will issue its decisions for award three to four months after the Governor submits the applications.  **Media Attending Today’s Board Meeting**  Today, the Los Angeles Times had two reporters attending the Board meeting. They were interested in the action taken by the Board seeking federal funding for the Westside Subway Extension and the downtown Regional Connector projects as well as action on the AnsaldoBreda rail car option. Stories are expected to run tomorrow. Media Relations issued a news release on Board action regarding seeking federal funding for the Westside Subway Extension and the Regional Connector.  News Release Link:   <http://www.metro.net/news_info/press/Metro_152.htm> |
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