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| **Tuesday, October 13, 2009****20091013-1**In this issue:* **Congressional Committee To Hold Hearing On High Speed Rail**
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| **Congressional Committee To Hold Hearing On High Speed Rail**The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials will hold a hearing tomorrow entitled, “High-Speed Rail in the United States: Opportunities and Challenges.” The hearing will receive testimony from representatives of the private and public sectors on the opportunities and challenges of developing high-speed rail in the United States. Please click here for a briefing memo from committee staff to Members of Congress serving on the subcommittee. Our agency will have a member of our federal advocacy team present at this hearing. Tomorrow, I look forward to providing the Board an overview of the outcome of this congressional hearing.<http://transportation.house.gov/Media/file/Rail/20091014/SSM_RR.pdf>**Select Committee on Ports To Hold Hearing Tomorrow**The California State Assembly’s Select Committee on Ports, chaired by Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal (D-54) will hold an informational hearing tomorrow entitled “Goods Movement Infrastructure for a Post–Recession Economy.” Metro staff will present an overview of infrastructure funding opportunities that may be available through the next surface transportation authorization bill that will be considered by the U.S. Congress. The hearing, which will begin at 10:00 a.m., will be held at the Port of Long Beach Administration building.**Metro Urges U.S. Senators Boxer and Inhofe to Include Funds for Transit in Climate Change Bill**I have co-authored a letter to the Chair and Ranking members of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee to urge that the climate change bill they consider include a dedicated source of funding for transit and smart growth initiatives. In May of this year the Board unanimously endorsed legislation (H.R. 1329) that seeks to set aside 10% of emission allowances from any climate change bill for transit and other transportation programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The correspondence to Chair Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Ranking member James Inhofe (R-OK) highlights the fact that the transportation sector accounts for 28% of all green house gas emissions. The U.S. Senate EPW Committee is slated to begin hearings on a climate change bill this month. Our agency will continue to vigorously make the case that any climate change bill must direct at least 10% of emission allowances for transit and other transportation programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.<http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/epw__Oct_12_2009_15_20_50_169.pdf>**Gateway Cities Service Providers Meeting** The Gateway Cities Service Sector held its quarterly Service Providers meeting last Thursday, October 8, 2009. The Sector holds this quarterly meeting to communicate information about agency and sector plans and projects and to ensure all of the region's transit partners are working in a coordinated manner to best serve all of our customers. The meeting included information about December service changes being considered, Long Beach Transit’s proposed service changes for March 2010, a recap of recent Norwalk Transit service changes and an update on the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension project. In addition, an Orange County Transportation Authority report on proposed March 2010 service changes was distributed to the group. City and transit agency representatives also updated attendees on the recent and upcoming implementation of service changes. Meeting participants included representatives from Norwalk Transit, Montebello Transit, Long Beach Transit, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and the cities of Cerritos and Downey.  Metro Gateway Cities Governance Council Chair George Bass and Representative Wally Shidler also attended. |
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