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| **Local Transportation Leaders Seek Federal Stimulus Funding for L.A. to Anaheim High Speed Train Corridor** Media Relations issued a news release today announcing that a group of prominent Southern California transportation leaders are in Washington, D.C. to seek federal stimulus funds for the L.A. to Anaheim segment of the California High Speed Rail initiative. The group consists of Curt Pringle, Mayor of Anaheim and Chair of the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA); Richard Katz, CHSRA Member and Metro Board Member; Will Kempton, Orange County Transportation Authority CEO; Ara Najarian, Metro Board Chair and me. Together, we will recommend that the L.A. to Anaheim high speed train project be funded at $2.19 billion. The high speed train connection would link two of the densest urban populations on the West Coast in less than 20 minutes, and would provide the backbone of a burgeoning statewide high speed train network. The corridor is considered the most “shovel-ready” high speed train project of its kind in the nation, and would create nearly 54,000 jobs.Link:  <http://www.metro.net/news_info/press/Metro_171.htm>**Los Angeles County’s Congressional Delegation sends letter to Metro’s Board of Directors**Members of Los Angeles County’s Congressional Delegation sent the attached [letter](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/091020_SGV_Coalition_Ltr..pdf) to the Metro Board of Directors today. Chairman Najarian issued the attached [response](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/091020_RESPONSE_TO_CONGRESSIONAL_LETTER.pdf). I join with our Chairman in welcoming the dialogue with our Congressional delegation and I am pleased that I was able to be in Washington D.C. this week so that I could work directly with our partners in Congress.<http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/091020_SGV_Coalition_Ltr..pdf><http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/091020_RESPONSE_TO_CONGRESSIONAL_LETTER.pdf>**Local Government Protection Initiative Filed**We are pleased to report that the California Transit Association (CTA) initiative to protect public transit funding has been filed with the Attorney General’s office.  As previously reported, CTA has joined with the California League of Cities and the California Alliance for Jobs in a broader initiative to protect local government services. A campaign website has been created with additional information.  The filing of documents with the Attorney General’s office marks a significant step in the process for the development of an initiative and also triggers restrictions on activities by public agency employees.  <http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/091020_RESPONSE_TO_CONGRESSIONAL_LETTER.pdf>[The website launched today by the campaign](http://www.savelocalservices.com/)[The press release issued this afternoon by the campaign](http://www.savelocalservices.com/node/28)[The text of the proposed ballot initiative](http://www.savelocalservices.com/sites/default/files/fact%20sheets/Long%20Version.pdf)**Channel 7 to Air Investigative Piece on Metro Blue Line Fatality tonight during 5:00 p.m. newscast**Channel 7 Producer Lisa Bartley has informed our Media Relations Department that the station will air an investigative story tonight about the death last January of a visually-impaired man who was killed when he attempted to walk between two Metro Blue Line train cars at a station platform. A lawsuit has been filed, so we have been circumvented in our response to Bartley. Attached is a statement we provided to her last week. <http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/ch7Response101309.pdf>**Bus Riders Union to Hold Rally on LRTP**Earlier today, the Bus Riders Union (BRU) along with a contingent of Korean drummers held a rally and performed street theater to pressure the Board to reject the 2009 Long Range Transportation Plan on this Thursday’s Board agenda. The BRU says they are concerned that the plan contains possible fare increases and reduced bus service. The news media who attended the event in front of our Headquarters building included Channel 62. Stories are expected to air tonight.**Metro to Offer Late-Night Rail Service for Upcoming U2 Concert**Media Relations issued a news release today noting that nearly 100,000 fans are expected to converge on the Rose Bowl this Sunday, October 25, 2009 for the 7:00 p.m. U2 concert -- the largest on the rock band's world "360 Tour." Heavy traffic, congested streets and limited parking are anticipated around the stadium for this event. The release notes that to make the experience easier for concert goers, we – along with funding from the Rose Bowl and concert promoter Live Nation – are extending Metro Rail service into the early morning hours so that fans can leave their cars at home and travel to and from the event via Metro. Patrons can take the Metro Gold Line to Memorial Park Station at the corner of Holly Street and Raymond Avenue. Patrons can exit the train and walk one block north on Raymond to Walnut Street. Turn left and walk one block west to Parsons Engineering, 100 W. Walnut. $5 round-trip shuttle buses will run before and after the concert between Parsons and the Rose Bowl. Shuttle service will begin at noon and continue after the show until all fans have left the stadium. After-concert trains will run a minimum of every 20 minutes, or as often as needed to accommodate passenger loads. Metro Rail trains will run according to Sunday schedules throughout the day and into the evening.Link to News Release: <http://www.metro.net/news_info/press/Metro_172.htm> |
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