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| **Tuesday, August 7, 2012120807-1****In this Issue:*** **Metro Blue Line Safety**
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* **I-710 Corridor Project Draft EIR/EIS Statement Released**
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| **Metro Blue Line Safety**This afternoon at approximately 1:00 p.m., I participated in the Pat Morrison radio show on KPCC with Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Zev Yaroslavsky on the topic of Metro Blue Line safety. I concurred with the assessment that nothing is more important than safety, and discussed several safety measures that have been put in place to prevent vehicle and pedestrian accidents. There have been six fatalities on the Metro Blue Line so far this year, with four deemed to be suicides. I also reported that Metro will be convening a task force that includes cities, the California Public Utilities Commission and Union Pacific to investigate causes and provide potential solutions for reducing accidents and preventing suicides on the line. The task force will report back to the Metro Board in November.  **Media Requests Metro Comment on Board of Supervisors Approval of Measure R Extension for Fall Ballot**Today, a reporter from the City News Service requested a comment from Metro after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the Measure R extension for the November ballot. Metro staff underscored the importance of the Measure which would extend the transportation sales tax approved in 2008 to accelerate the construction of various highway and transit projects that would allow for a more comprehensive transportation system sooner. It was mentioned that the acceleration of the projects will also advance the creation of 250,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs, not only for the Los Angeles region, but for Southern California. Metro staff declined comment on the possibility of legal action in case the Board of Supervisors did not approve putting the measure on the ballot. A story will run this afternoon. **I-710 Corridor Project Draft EIR/EIS Statement Released**The Source is reporting that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and the Interstate 5 Joint Powers Authority have released the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/EIS) on the I-710 Corridor Project for a 60-day public review. The environmental review is looking at proposals that would improve Interstate 710 (I-710) in Los Angeles County between Ocean Boulevard and State Route 60 (SR-60). Major elements addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS include widening the I-710 freeway up to ten general purpose lanes (five lanes in each direction); modernizing and reconfiguring the I-405, SR-91 and a portion of the I-5 interchanges with the I-710; modernizing and reconfiguring most local arterial interchanges along the I-710; and looking at a provision of a separate four-lane freight corridor to be used by conventional or zero-emission trucks. Caltrans and Metro will hold a series of public hearings in August to update the public on the Draft EIR/EIS and the potential effects this project may have on the environment. Please note that the first public hearing will be held tonight. The hearing dates are as follows:* August 7, 2012 (6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) – Progress Park, 15500 Downey Ave., Paramount, California
* August 8, 2012, (6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) – Silverado Park Community Center, 1545 W. 31st Street, Long Beach, California
* August 9, 2012 (4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)  – Rosewood Park, 5600 Harbor Street, Commerce, California

Electronic versions of the Draft EIR/EIS on compact disc also are available for review at public libraries throughout the I-710 corridor. The Draft EIR/EIS may also be viewed [here](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/resources/envdocs/docs/710corridor/). To read the complete story, please click [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2012/08/06/i-710-corridor-project-draft-eireis-statement-released/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=i-710-corridor-project-draft-eireis-statement-released). <http://thesource.metro.net/2012/08/06/i-710-corridor-project-draft-eireis-statement-released/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=i-710-corridor-project-draft-eireis-statement-released> |
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