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| **Thursday, August 16, 2012 120816-1**  **In this Issue:**  **Metro Reaches a 3-year Contract with ATU**  **Metro Hosts the San Fernando Valley Transit - North County Transit Providers Meeting**  **Reminder: House Transportation Committee To Hold Hearing Tomorrow In Los Angeles On Planned Federal Courthouse**  **Expo Light Rail Phase 2 Construction Notice** |
| **News Release: Metro Reaches a 3-year Contract with ATU**  I am pleased to announce that our agency has reached a 3-year contract with the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), representing over 2,300 bus and rail maintenance employees. Metro General Manager Employee and Labor Relations Richard Hunt remarked, “Metro is pleased to announce that it has reached a 3-year agreement with the ATU, which includes a very modest increase in compensation and adjustments to the health and welfare program for union workers.” Metro and ATU reached a tentative agreement on Tuesday, August 14, 2012. ATU membership ratified the proposed contract on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 and now the contract will be presented to the Metro Board of Directors for its approval at the Thursday, September 27, 2012 full board meeting.  **San Fernando Valley Transit - North County Transit Providers Meeting**    Tuesday, Metro hosted the San Fernando Valley - North County Transit Providers meeting, the third of our quarterly meetings with transit providers in all five of the regions served by our Metro Service Councils. The group received an update on the TAP program, including information on the introduction of TAP cards being available in our ticket vending machines. They also discussed Chair Antonovich's recent motion concerning improved scheduling coordination, the idea of developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), or similar agreement, to coordinate all service changes, and the best way to prioritize Metrolink stations and other major transit hubs to improve schedule coordination. Each of the attendees also provided an update of service changes and other transportation related changes in their respective areas. In addition to Metro, meeting participants included representatives from the cities of Burbank and Glendale, Metrolink, Antelope Valley Transit Authority, Santa Clarita Transit and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. Other attendees included San Fernando Valley Service Council Chair Kymberleigh Richards,  Michael Cano, Transportation Deputy for Metro Board Chair and Los Angeles County Supervisor Antonovich and a San Fernando Valley Service Council member, and Jennifer Brogin, a representative for Board Chair Antonovich. Jennifer was formerly an intern for Metro in the San Fernando Valley Service Sector.  **Reminder: House Transportation Committee To Hold Hearing Tomorrow In Los Angeles On Planned Federal Courthouse**  As was shared last week in a Daily Brief, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, under the leadership of its Chairman, Jeff Denham (R-19), is scheduled to hold a hearing in Los Angeles tomorrow. The hearing is entitled, “LA Courthouse: GSA’s Plan To Spend $400 million To Create Vacant Space.”  The hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse located at 255 East Temple Street in the City of Los Angeles. According to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s website, “Subcommittee Chairman Denham and Full Committee Chairman Mica are leading Congressional efforts to eliminate waste in our government by reducing our federal footprint and better utilizing federally owned assets. According to the website, “The L.A. Courthouse project is a prime example of runaway government spending that will cost taxpayers in excess of $400 million.” A memo on the hearing may be found [here](http://republicans.transportation.house.gov/Media/file/112th/EDPBEM/2012-08-17--ED_Briefing_Memo.pdf).  Earlier this year, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal Allard (D-34), a member of the powerful House Committee on Appropriations and a strong advocate for our agency in Congress, praised the General Services Administration for issuing a new [proposal](http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/137663) for the long planned federal courthouse in Los  Angeles. In a press release issued by her office, the Congresswoman shared, “This new plan will create even more construction jobs for our community and is a win, win, win for the courts, federal employees and the people of Southern California.  <http://republicans.transportation.house.gov/Media/file/112th/EDPBEM/2012-08-17--ED_Briefing_Memo.pdf>  <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/137663>  **Expo Light Rail Phase 2 Construction Notice**  National/Palms Boulevard Bridge Construction  As part of the construction of the Expo Light Rail Line Phase 2, work crews will begin all the necessary activities to support the construction of the National/Palms Boulevard Bridge, including implementing new traffic controls and excavation for the bridge foundations on the Expo Right-of-Way (ROW) in the City of Los Angeles. The work is being managed and performed by the Expo Phase 2 design-build contractor *Skanska-Rados Joint Venture (SRJV)* and its subcontractors. Construction work along the Expo ROW on National/Palms Boulevard is scheduled from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Restriping of traffic lanes and K-rail (concrete barrier) installation is scheduled on Monday, August 20, 2012 from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Traffic signal relocation is scheduled on Tuesday, August 21, 2012. Bridge construction is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, August 22, 2012 for approximately twelve months. To view the complete construction notice, please click [here](http://www.buildexpo.org/pdf_uploads/cons_3m4c2gbe9n.pdf).  <http://www.buildexpo.org/pdf_uploads/cons_3m4c2gbe9n.pdf> | |
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